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**Drug Therapy & Nursing Interventions**

Dopamine agonists:  
mimic dopamine  
pramipexole (Mirapex)  
Monitor for orthostatic hypotension,  
hallucinations, sleepiness

Combination drug:  
levodopa-carbidopa (Sinemet)  
Teach to take drug before meals

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**Drug Therapy & Nursing Interventions**

Catechol O-methyltransferases  
(COMTs) inhibitors:  
entacapone (Comtran)

-increases the availability of  
levodopa in the brain  
-used in combination with levodopa

Monitor liver function

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## Drug Therapy & Nursing Interventions

Monoamine oxidase type B (MAO-B) inhibitors:

selegiline (Deprenyl, Eldepryl)

-Teach dietary restrictions



Dopamine receptor antagonists  
bromocriptine mesylate (Parlodel)

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## Drug Therapy & Nursing Interventions

Other Drugs:

- amantadine (Symmetrel): antiviral that has anti-Parkinson benefits

- benztropine (Cogentin): sometimes used to treat severe motor symptoms; not recommended in older adults

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**Benzotropine (Cogentin)**  
"Controlling The Uncontrollable"  
Anticholinergic; Antiparkinson Drug

Route:  
PO  
(IM, IV, ophthalmic for spasms)

Cogentin effectively blocks cholinergic and increases dopaminergic activity to reduce severity of symptoms

used in treatment of Parkinson's disease and drug-induced extrapyramidal reactions

Complete loss of muscle movement

Tremors

Rigidity

Monitor your elderly client for confusion, disorientation, agitation and delirium-like symptoms

Also watch for dryness, dry mouth, blurred vision, urinary retention, constipation, decreased sweating and/or vision

A cartoon character in a grey suit is pushing against a large red brick wall. The wall has several yellow starburst shapes with text labels.

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## Drug Toxicity

- Long-term drug therapy regimens often cause cognitive impairment, decreased effectiveness of the drug
- Reduce medication dose.
- Change medications or frequency of administration.
- Take "drug holiday," especially in the use of levodopa therapy.

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## TREATMENT CONTINUED

- **"on-off" phenomenon** – gradual worsening of symptoms as medication begins to lose effectiveness
- **"Drug Holiday"** when levodopa no longer working effectively (usually 10-day period of hospitalization)




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## Surgical Management

- Surgical management includes:
  - > Stereotactic pallidotomy/thalamotomy
  - > Deep brain stimulation-most common surgical procedure to treat PD
  - > Fetal tissue transplantation

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