

## Dopamine agonist drugs

You have been prescribed a type of medication called a Dopamine Agonist to help control the symptoms of your condition. This may be Parkinson's or restless legs. There are several different types. Some are taken 3 times a day and others once daily. One is a 24-hour patch worn on the skin.

Listed below are the different kinds, although some of these are less commonly used today.

- ropinirole (Requip<sup>®</sup>)
- pramipexole (Mirapexin<sup>®</sup>)
- rotigotine (Neupro<sup>®</sup>) patch
- cabergoline (Cabaser<sup>®</sup>)
- pergolide (Celance<sup>®</sup>)
- bromocriptine (Parlodel<sup>®</sup>)

## Common side-effects

These drugs are generally well tolerated but some people can experience some side-effects such as:

- nausea and/or vomiting
- light headedness
- confusion
- hallucinations
- leg swelling

Nausea and dizziness can be helped by taking a type of anti-sickness medication called domperidone. Confusion and hallucinations may be a side-effect which means we may need to change your medication for another type.

Leg swelling can be mild or more pronounced. Adjustments to medication may be needed depending on degree of swelling.

## Impulse control disorder

Impulse control disorder is a possible side-effect of some Parkinson's drugs.

This behaviour is when the person can't resist the temptation to carry out certain activities. These are often activities that give an immediate reward or pleasure, such as gambling, eating or shopping or an increase in sexual thoughts or feelings which may be out of character for the person. Often people may demonstrate more than one of these behaviours.

## Compulsive behaviour

This is when a person has an overwhelming drive or urge to act in a certain way, often repetitively. This can often give no pleasure or reward.

## Impulsive and compulsive behaviour continued:

Both of these behaviours can have a devastating impact on the person and those around them.

If you think that this is happening to you or the person you are caring for, tell someone right away. This can be your GP, Parkinson's Nurse or Consultant. Some useful contact numbers can be found on the back page.

Adjustments to medication doses can help to stop these behaviours from happening or worsening so it is very important you speak to someone as soon as possible. Do not stop taking your medication without speaking to someone from the Parkinson's Team first.

## Useful numbers:

### *Parkinson's Nurses*

*North NHS Highland  
Sharon Sutherland  
01463 706378*

*Argyll and Bute CHP  
Cheryl Howe  
01631 710065*

*NHS 24  
111*

*Parkinson's UK Helpline  
0808 800 0303*



***Dopamine Agonist Medication  
used to treat Parkinson's or  
Restless Legs***

## ***Patient Information Sheet***

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