

Medications in Alzheimer's Disease

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2017 Summit Series

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- Discuss the types of medications used for Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
- Recognize options for medication assistance devices
- Explain the role of a pharmacist in helping caregivers and patients with AD

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Mild – Moderate Alzheimer's

- Donepezil (Aricept)
- Galantamine (Razadyne)
- Rivastigmine (Exelon)

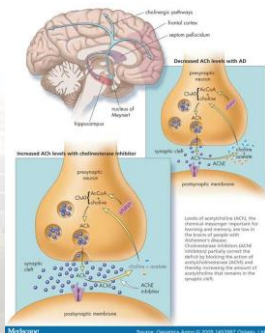
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Cholinesterase Inhibitors

- Prevent the breakdown of acetylcholine
- Increase amount of acetylcholine available

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Donepezil (Aricept)

- Cholinesterase inhibitor
- Starting dose 5 mg daily, can increase to 10 mg daily
- Common side effects
 - Diarrhea, nausea, insomnia
- Available as tablet and dissolvable tablet



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Galantamine (Razadyne)

- Cholinesterase inhibitor
- Starting dose 4 mg twice daily (or 8 mg daily extended release), maximum 16 – 24 mg daily
- Common side effects
 - Diarrhea, nausea, dizziness
- Available as tablet and extended release capsule



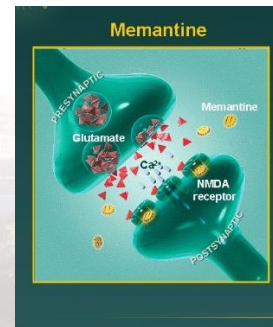
Rivastigmine (Exelon)

- Cholinesterase inhibitor
- Tablet: starting dose 1.5 mg twice daily, maximum 6 mg twice daily
- Patch: 4.6 mg daily up 13.3 mg daily
- Common side effects
 - Diarrhea, nausea, dizziness



Moderate – Severe Alzheimer's

- Donepezil (Aricept)
- Memantine (Namenda)
- Memantine/Donepezil (Namzaric)
- Rivastigmine (Exelon) patch



NMDA Receptor Inhibitors

- Prevents neurotransmission by glutamate
- Only works if there is excessive receptor activation (as during AD)

Memantine (Namenda)

- NMDA receptor antagonist
- Tablet: starting dose 5 mg daily, maximum 20 mg daily (given as 10 mg twice daily)
- XR Capsule: 7 mg daily up to 28 mg daily
- Also available as solution and in combination with donepezil
- Common side effects
 - Diarrhea, headache, dizziness



Medications to Avoid

- Anticholinergic medications
 - Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
 - Oxybutynin (Ditropan)
 - Tolterodine (Detrol)
- Benzodiazepines
 - Alprazolam (Xanax)
 - Lorazepam (Ativan)

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Pharmacy Tips

- Coordinate with physician and pharmacist
- Be cautious with new medications
 - Pharmacist will check for drug interactions
- Ask to speak to pharmacist about potential side effects of medication
- Use the same pharmacy
- Develop a routine

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Pharmacy Tips

- What to do if you miss a dose
- Difficulty swallowing

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Managing other problems

- Insomnia
 - First try non-pharmacologic therapy
 - Role of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications

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Managing other problems

- Depression
 - Role of antidepressants
 - Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's)

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Managing other problems

- Psychosis
 - Role of antipsychotics
 - Risk of antipsychotics

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UNIVERSAL MEDICATION FORM

Fold this form and keep it in your wallet Date form started: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Birth Date: _____

Emergency Contact/Phone numbers: _____

IMMUNIZATION RECORD (Record the date/year of last dose taken, if known)

TETANUS	FLU VACCINES
PNEUMONIA VACCINE	HEPATITIS VACCINE
OTHER	

Allergic To / Describe Reaction: _____ Allergic To / Describe Reaction: _____

LIST ALL MEDICINES YOU ARE CURRENTLY TAKING: Prescription and over-the-counter medications (examples: aspirin, antacids) and herbals (examples: ginseng, ginkgo). Include medications taken as needed (example: nitroglycerin).

DATE STARTED	NAME OF MEDICATION / DOSE	DIRECTIONS: Use patient friendly directions. (Do not use medical abbreviations.)	DATE STOPPED	Notes: Reason for Taking / Doctor Name

<http://www.trnpharm.org/wp-content/uploads/UML-English.pdf>

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Role of Compounding

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alzheimer's association
the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

16 Levin Chapter
2475 Oakdale 3889 372-2888
www.alz.org
serving 15 chapters in Eastern MD and Western VA

Medication Avoidance Programs

Name / Address / Phone	Eligible Conditions	Application Process	Assistance Available	Special Notes
Partnership for Prescription Assistance (888) 477-3389 www.ppa.org	Call to view the website or those which progress are best suited for data. Patients should be ready to provide age, date of residence, ZIP code, estimated annual household income of the prescriber, and whether they are currently taking or have been prescribed, used, if applicable, any type of health insurance and/or prescription coverage. All requests are confidential. All applicable information and progress will be sent to the participant through the mail.	Download application: www.ppa.org	The organization offers supplies and other patient assistance programs. The organization offers medication or underinsured patient access programs which will allow them to get the prescription drugs they need. (Can also assist users with understanding their health care benefits.)	

Namzaric (nortriptyne HCl and donepezil HCl) extended-release capsules
100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg

FREE TRIAL OFFER

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Clinical Trials

- Several current trials

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Conclusions

- Utilize your pharmacist for help with medications
- Multiple resources for assistance
- Options for monotherapy and combination therapy

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