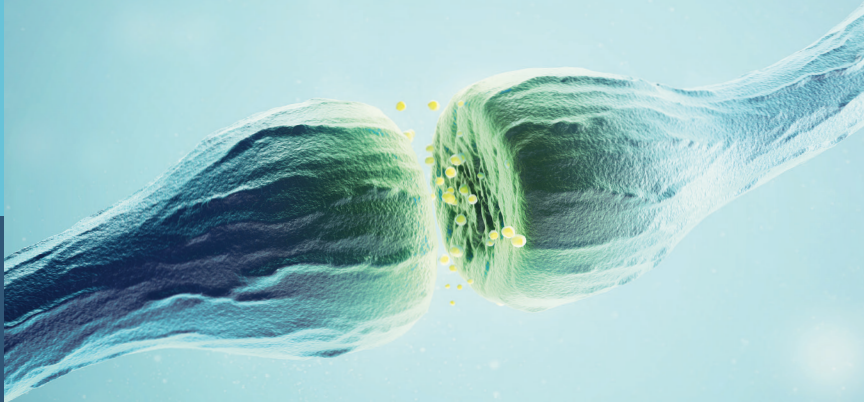


2019/Q2 EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

WHAT **YOU** NEED  
TO KNOW

## MANAGING PARKINSON'S IN SENIORS

**MediSystem™**  
Pharmacy  
A SHOPPERS DRUG MART COMPANY



## WHAT IS PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is the most common movement disorder, affecting 1% - 2% of people over the age of 65. It is a slowly progressive, neuro-degenerative disorder that is caused by substantial loss of the cells that produce dopamine (a chemical that carries signals between the nerves in our brain).

### WHAT ARE THE COMMON SYMPTOMS OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

Common symptoms of Parkinson's Disease may include:

- **Resting tremor**
- **Slowness and stiffness**
- **Impaired balance**
- **Rigidity of the muscles**

CLASS	COMMENTS
Dopamine Precursor (levodopa)	Converted to dopamine in the brain; stored in nerve cells to replace depleted dopamine. Combining with other drugs (carbidopa or benserazide) allows more levodopa to get to the brain and reduces side effects. Improves muscle rigidity and movement. Side effects: nausea, confusion, dizziness, vivid dreams, hallucinations, fatigue.
Dopamine Agonists (bromocriptine, pramipexole, ropinirole, rotigotine)	Mimics action of dopamine. Can be used as initial treatment or with levodopa in advanced stages. Side effects: sleepiness, hallucinations, leg swelling, obsessions with food, sex and activities.
COMT Inhibitors (entacapone)	Blocks a key enzyme responsible for dopamine breakdown. Can improve duration of response to levodopa. Side effects: diarrhea, nausea, involuntary movements.
MAO-B Inhibitors (selegiline, rasagiline)	Prevent dopamine breakdown in the brain. Side effects: insomnia, dizziness, constipation.
NMDA Antagonists (amantadine)	Enhances dopamine release and blocks glutamate. Has mild anti-Parkinsonian action. Side effects: dizziness, insomnia, confusion, peripheral edema, constipation.
Anticholinergic Agents (benztropine, trihexyphenidyl, procyclidine)	Thought to correct imbalance between dopamine and acetylcholine. Not first choice in the treatment of PD. Counteracts benefits of cholinesterase inhibitors (donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine). Side effects: blurred vision, dry mouth, constipation, urinary retention, dizziness.

*For more information, speak to a MediSystem Pharmacist.*

REFERENCES ON REVERSE SIDE

medisystempharmacy.com

**REFERENCES:**

<https://www.merckmanuals.com/en-ca/professional>  
<https://www.parkinson.ca/>