

Drugs that May Cause Behavioral or Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)

This reference card lists common and especially problematic drugs that may cause delirium or contribute to behavioral or psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). This does not always mean the drugs should not be used, and not all such drugs are listed. If a patient develops delirium or has new symptoms, a careful review of all medications is recommended.

Be especially mindful of new medications.

Anticonvulsants

All can cause delirium, e.g.

Carbamazepine – Tegretol

Gabapentin – Neurontin

Levetiracetam – Keppra

Valproic acid – Depakote

Pain

All opiates can cause delirium if dose is too high or increased too quickly.

Codiene – Empirin, many others

Fentanyl – Duragesic

Hydrocodone – Lortab

Hydromorphone – Palladone,
Dilaudid

Meperidine – Demerol

Morphine – MS Contin, MS IR

Oxycodone – OxyContin

Tramadol – Ultram

Psychiatric

All psychiatric medications should be reviewed as possible causes, as effects are unpredictable.

Notable offenders include:

Benzodiazepines e.g.

-Alprazolam – Xanax

-Clonazepam – Klonopin

-Lorazepam – Ativan

Stimulants e.g.

-Methylphenidate – Ritalin

Hypnotics (Sleep Medications) e.g.

-Eszopiclone – Lunesta

-Zaleplon – Sonata

-Zolpidem – Ambien

Tricyclic Antidepressants e.g.

-Amitriptyline – Elavil

-Doxepin – Silenor, Sinequan

-Nortriptyline – Pamelor

Parkinson's/Restless Legs

Most Parkinson's disease medications can cause psychosis.

Amantadine – Symadine, Symmetrel

Bromocriptine – Parlodel

Levodopa – Sinemet, Stalevo

Pramipexole – Mirapex

Rasagiline – Azilect

Ropinrole – Requip

Rotigotine – Neupro

Selegiline – Eldepril, Emsam, Zelapar

Antibiotics/Antivirals

Difficult to distinguish drug effects from effects of infection. Others may contribute as well.

Antiviral

-Acyclovir – Zovirax

-Valacyclovir – Valtrex

Fluoroquinolones e.g.

-Levofloxacin – Levaquin

-Ciprofloxacin – Cipro

-Metronidazole – Flagyl

-Vancomycin – Vancocin

Steroids

Corticosteroids e.g.

-Prednisone – Deltasone, etc.

Testosterone – AndroGel, etc.

Cardiac Medications

Antiarrhythmics

Digoxin – Digitek, Lanoxin

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*Anticholinergics—all drugs on this side of the card. May impair cognition and cause psychosis. Drugs available over-the-counter marked with **

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Amitriptyline – *Elavil*
Clomipramine – *Anafranil*
Desipramine – *Norpramin*
Doxepin – *Sinequan*
Imipramine – *Tofranil*
Nortriptyline – *Aventyl, Pamelor*

Bladder Antispasmodics

Darifenacin – *Enablex*
Flavoxate – *Urispas*
Oxybutynin – *Ditropan*
Solifenacin – *VESIcare*
Tolterodine – *Detrol*
Trospium – *Sanctura*

Antihistamines / Allergy / Cough & Cold Medicines

***Azela**stine – *Astepro*
***Brompheniramine** – *Bromax, Bromfed, Lodrane*
Carbinoxamine – *Rondec*
***Chlorpheniramine** – *Chlor-Trimeton*
***Clemastine** – *Tavist*
Cyproheptadine – *Periactin*
***Dexbrompheniramine** – *Drixoral*
Dexchlorpheniramine – *Polaramine*
***Diphenhydramine** – *Benadryl*
Hydroxyzine – *Atarax, Vistaril*
Olopatadine – *Pataday, Patanol*
Promethazine – *Phenergan*
Triprolidine – *Triacin-C*

Insomnia / Sleep

***Diphenhydramine** – *Sominex, Tylenol-PM, others*
***Doxylamine** – *Unisom, Medi-Sleep*

Stomach and GI Tract

Ulcer and Reflux:
***Cimetidine** – *Tagamet*
Glycopyrrolate – *Robinul*
***Ranitidine** – *Zantac*

GI Antispasmodics:
Atropine – *Sal-Tropine, Atreza*
Belladonna Alkaloids – *Donnatal, Bellamine S, Bel-Tabs, B&O supprettes*
Clidinium – *Librax*
Dicyclomine – *Bentyl*
Hyoscyamine – *Levsin, Anaspaz, Cytospaz*
Methscopolamine – *Pamine, Pamine Forte*
Propantheline – *Pro-Banthine*

Motion Sickness / Dizziness / Nausea

***Dimenhydrinate** – *Dramamine*
***Meclizine** – *Antivert, Dramamine less drowsy*
Promethazine – *Phenergan*
***Scopolamine** – *Scopace, Transderm-Scop, Maldemar*
Trimethobenzamide – *Tigan*

Movement Disorders

Benztropine – *Cogentin*
Trihexyphenidyl – *Artane*

Anticholinergic Antipsychotics

Chlorpromazine – *Thorazine*
Clozapine – *Clozaril*
Loxapine – *Loxitane*
Olanzapine – *Zyprexa*
Pimozide – *Orap*
Quetiapine – *Seroquel*
Thioridazine – *Mellaril*