

Questions to ask next time:

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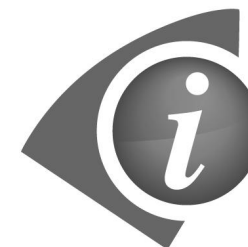
**Parkinson's Disease nurse
specialist**

Consultant's Secretary

23718 V2/General Medicine/SDHCT/11.14/
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South Devon Healthcare 
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PATIENT INFORMATION



Drug Treatment in Parkinson's Disease

MAO Inhibitors B

MAOIBs

Mono Amine Oxidase Inhibitor Bs (MAOIBs)

increase the level of dopamine in the brain by blocking the breakdown of **dopamine**.

Therefore they increase the level of this chemical which is deficient in Parkinson's disease.

They can be used by themselves in the early stages of Parkinson's disease to delay the use of L-Dopa and in addition to other drugs later on for disease fluctuation and end of dose deterioration.

There are two different MAOIBs: **Selegiline (Eldepryl & Zelepar)** and **Rasagaline (Azilect)**.

Selegiline can be given by mouth or administered under the tongue (sublingually). The sublingual route is said to reduce side effects from the breakdown products of **Selegiline**.

There were safety concerns raised about **Selegiline** in the late 1990's but these have subsequently been found to be untrue.

Rasagaline is a newer MAOBI and is more potent. There is some evidence to suggest it might delay the progression of Parkinson's in the early stages. It sometimes works when Selegiline does not.

Preparations

Selegiline (Eldepryl)

❖ **Oral tablets** - white tablets, 5 and 10 mg strength

❖ **Oral liquid** - 10 mg per 5 mls

Zelepar - 1.25 mgs, yellow tablets given sublingually (under the tongue)

Rasagaline - white 1 mg tablets

Dosage

Selegiline, oral dosage starts at 5 mgs once a day for the first month and goes to 10 mgs daily or 5 mgs twice a day if it has not helped.

The sublingual dose is 1.25 mgs. Apart from side effects it has no additional benefits being given sublingually.

Rasagaline, 1 mg per day. White tablets

Side effects

The main side effects are nausea, anorexia, weight loss, bowel upset, dizziness on standing, confusion, hallucinations, sleep disorders and involuntary movements (dyskinesia).

An increased risk of stroke and heart attack has been reported with these drugs especially **selegiline**.

MAOIBs should be avoided in patients on some antidepressants.

If side effects occur you should consult your doctor or Parkinson's Nurse Specialist.

Do not suddenly stop the medication as this can cause serious problems. It needs to be withdrawn gradually.