

FDA APPROVED DRUGS FOR DEMENTIA

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Objectives



REVIEW TYPES OF DEMENTIA
WITH FDA-APPROVED
PHARMACOLOGIC
TREATMENT



DISCUSS THE MECHANISM
OF ACTION FOR EACH
DRUG



COMPARE EFFICACY AND
SAFETY PROFILES



EXPLORE CLINICAL
INDICATIONS AND SPECIAL
CONSIDERATIONS

Overview of Dementia (most common)

Progressive
neurodegenerative
disorder

**Alzheimer's disease
(AD)**

**Lewy body
dementia**

**Parkinson's disease
dementia**

Vascular dementia

*FDA-approved
drugs primarily
target Alzheimer's
disease

FDA-Approved Drug Classes

Drug Class	Examples	Primary Indication
Cholinesterase inhibitors	Donepezil, Rivastigmine, Galantamine	Mild to moderate AD
NMDA receptor antagonist	Memantine	Moderate to severe AD
Combination therapy	Donepezil + Memantine	Moderate to severe AD

Cholinesterase Inhibitors – Mechanism

- Inhibit **acetylcholinesterase**, increasing synaptic acetylcholine
- Enhances cholinergic transmission in the brain
- Benefits: modest improvement in cognition, overall functioning



Donepezil (Aricept)



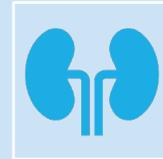
Indication: Mild, moderate, and severe Alzheimer's disease



Dosage: 5–10 mg daily (up to 23 mg for severe)



Side Effects: GI upset, bradycardia, insomnia, syncope



Unique: Once-daily dosing, well-tolerated

Rivastigmine (Exelon)



Indications: Mild to moderate AD, Parkinson's dementia



Forms: Oral and transdermal patch



Side Effects: Nausea, vomiting, anorexia, dizziness



Patch: Fewer GI side effects

Galantamine (Razadyne)

Indications: Mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease

Side Effects: GI upset, weight loss, sleep disturbances

Caution in renal/hepatic impairment

NMDA Receptor Antagonist – Memantine (Namenda)



Indication: Moderate to severe AD



Mechanism: Blocks pathological glutamate activity via NMDA receptor



Benefits: Improves cognition, behavior, activities of daily living



Side Effects: Dizziness, headache, confusion, hallucinations

Combination Therapy

Namzanic = Memantine + Donepezil

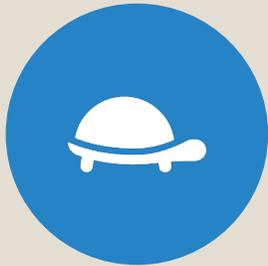
Indication: Moderate to severe
Alzheimer's disease

Fixed-dose capsule

Improved compliance

Side effects are additive

Clinical Considerations



START LOW, GO
SLOW (TITRATE
CAREFULLY)



MONITOR FOR
BRADYCARDIA, GI
EFFECTS



NO CURE —
MEDICATIONS ARE
SYMPTOMATIC



DISCONTINUE IN
ADVANCED DISEASE
OR POOR RESPONSE



Antipsychotics (for
severe
agitation/psychosis)



Antidepressants:
Used in comorbid
depression



Vitamin E, Selegiline:
Insufficient
evidence

Other Agents (Not FDA-Approved for Dementia)