

Drugs that May Cause Delirium or Problem Behaviors

This reference card lists common and especially problematic drugs that may cause delirium or contribute to problem behaviors in people with dementia.

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 problem behaviors, a careful review of all medications is recommended.

Be especially mindful of new medications.

Anticonvulsants	Psychiatric
<p>All can cause delirium, e.g.</p> <p>Carbamazepine – Tegretol</p> <p>Gabapentin – Neurontin</p> <p>Levetiracetam – Keppra</p> <p>Valproic acid – Depakote</p>	<p>All psychiatric medications should be reviewed as possible causes, as effects are unpredictable.</p> <p>Notable offenders include:</p> <p>Benzodiazepines e.g.</p> <p>-Alprazolam – Xanax</p> <p>-Clonazepam – Klonopin</p> <p>-Lorazepam – Ativan</p> <p>Stimulants e.g.</p> <p>-Methylphenidate – Ritalin</p> <p>Hypnotics (Sleep Medications) e.g.</p> <p>-Eszopiclone – Lunesta</p> <p>-Zaleplon – Sonata</p> <p>-Zolpidem – Ambien</p> <p>Tricyclic Antidepressants e.g.</p> <p>-Amitriptyline – Elavil</p> <p>-Doxepin – Silenor, Sinequan</p> <p>-Nortriptyline – Pamelor</p>
Pain	
<p>All opiates can cause delirium if dose is too high or increased too quickly.</p> <p>Codiene – Empirin, many others</p> <p>Fentanyl – Duragesic</p> <p>Hydrocodone – Lortab</p> <p>Hydromorphone – Palladone, Dilaudid</p> <p>Meperidine – Demerol</p> <p>Morphine – MS Contin, MS IR</p> <p>Oxycodone – OxyContin</p> <p>Tramadol – Ultram</p>	
Parkinson's/Restless Legs	Antibiotics/Antivirals
<p>Most Parkinson's disease medications can cause psychosis.</p> <p>Amantadine – Symadine, Symmetrel</p> <p>Bromocriptine – Parlodel</p> <p>Levodopa – Sinemet, Stalevo</p> <p>Pramipexole – Mirapex</p> <p>Rasagiline – Azilect</p> <p>Ropinrole – Requip</p> <p>Rotigotine – Neupro</p> <p>Selegiline – Eldepril, Emsam, Zelapar</p>	<p>Difficult to distinguish drug effects from effects of infection. Others may contribute as well.</p> <p>Antiviral</p> <p>-Acyclovir – Zovirax</p> <p>-Valacyclovir – Valtrex</p> <p>Fluoroquinolones e.g.</p> <p>-Levofloxacin – Levaquin</p> <p>-Ciprofloxacin – Cipro</p> <p>Metronidazole – Flagyl</p> <p>Vancomycin – Vancocin</p>
Steroids	Cardiac Medications
<p>Corticosteroids e.g.</p> <p>-Prednisone – Deltasone, etc.</p> <p>Testosterone – AndroGel, etc.</p>	<p>Antiarrhythmics</p> <p>Digoxin – Digitek, Lanoxin</p>

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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	Bladder Antispasmodics
<p>Amitriptyline – Elavil</p> <p>Clomipramine – Anafranil</p> <p>Desipramine – Norpramin</p> <p>Doxepin – Sinequan</p> <p>Imipramine – Tofranil</p> <p>Nortriptyline – Aventyl, Pamelor</p>	<p>Darifenacin – Enablex</p> <p>Flavoxate – Urispas</p> <p>Oxybutynin – Ditropan</p> <p>Solifenacin – VESIcare</p> <p>Tolterodine – Detrol</p> <p>Trospium – Sanctura</p>
Antihistamines / Allergy / Cough & Cold Medicines	Insomnia / Sleep
<p>*Azelastine – Astepro</p> <p>*Brompheniramine – Bromax, Bromfed, Lodrane</p> <p>Carbinoxamine – Rondec</p> <p>*Chlorpheniramine – Chlor-Trimeton</p> <p>*Clemastine – Tavist</p> <p>Cyproheptadine – Periactin</p> <p>*Dexbrompheniramine – Drixoral</p> <p>Dexchlorpheniramine – Polaramine</p> <p>*Diphenhydramine – Benadryl</p> <p>Hydroxyzine – Atarax, Vistaril</p> <p>Olopatadine – Pataday, Patanol</p> <p>Promethazine – Phenergan</p> <p>Triprolidine – Triacin-C</p>	<p>*Diphenhydramine – Somnex, Tylenol-PM, others</p> <p>*Doxylamine – Unisom, Medi-Sleep</p>
	Stomach and GI Tract
	<p>Ulcer and Reflux:</p> <p>*Cimetidine – Tagamet</p> <p>Glycopyrrolate – Robinul</p> <p>*Ranitidine – Zantac</p> <p>GI Antispasmodics:</p> <p>Atropine – Sal-Tropine, Atreza</p> <p>Belladonna Alkaloids – Donnatal, Bellamine S, Bel-Tabs, B&O suppresettes</p> <p>Clidinium – Librax</p> <p>Dicyclomine – Bentyl</p> <p>Hyoscyamine – Levsin, Anaspaz, Cytospaz</p> <p>Methscopolamine – Pamine, Pamine Forte</p> <p>Propantheline – Pro-Banthine</p>
	Anticholinergic Antipsychotics
	<p>Chlorpromazine – Thorazine</p> <p>Clozapine – Clozaril</p> <p>Loxapine – Loxitane</p> <p>Olanzapine – Zyprexa</p> <p>Pimozide – Orap</p> <p>Quetiapine – Seroquel</p> <p>Thioridazine – Mellaril</p>
Motion Sickness / Dizziness / Nausea	
<p>*Dimenhydrinate – Dramamine</p> <p>*Meclizine – Antivert, Dramamine less drowsy</p> <p>Promethazine – Phenergan</p> <p>*Scopolamine – Scopace, Transderm-Scop, Maldemar</p> <p>Trimethobenzamide – Tigan</p>	
Movement Disorders	
<p>Benzotropine – Cogentin</p> <p>Trihexyphenidyl – Artane</p>	