

Medications to treat Alzheimer's and Dementia Diseases

Please Note: This brief summary does not include all information important for patient use and should not be used as a substitute for professional medical advice. Please consult the prescribing doctor and read the package insert before using these or any other medications or supplements. Drugs are listed in order of FDA approval, starting with the most recent.

DRUG NAME	DRUG TYPE AND USE	HOW IT WORKS	COMMON SIDE EFFECTS
Namenda® (Memantine)	(NMDA) antagonist prescribed to treat moderate to severe Alzheimer's	Blocks the toxic effects associated with excess glutamate and regulates glutamate activation	Dizziness headache constipation confusion
For more information www.namenda.com			
Razadyne® (Galantamine)	Cholinesterase inhibitor prescribed to treat symptoms of mild to moderate Alzheimer's	Prevents the breakdown of acetylcholine and stimulates nicotinic receptors to release more acetylcholine in the brain	Nausea vomiting diarrhea weight loss loss of appetite
For more information www.razadyneer			
Exelon® (Rivastigmine)	Cholinesterase inhibitor prescribed to treat symptoms of mild to moderate Alzheimer's	Prevents the breakdown of acetylcholine and butyrylcholine in the brain	Nausea vomiting diarrhea weight loss loss of appetite muscle loss
For more information www.fda.gov/cder			
Aricept® (Donepezil)	Cholinesterase inhibitor prescribed to treat symptoms of mild to moderate and moderate to severe Alzheimer's	Prevents the breakdown of acetylcholine in the brain	Nausea, vomiting diarrhea
For more information www.fda.gov/cder		Source for all drugs National Institute of Health Publication date July 2010 /updated April 9, 2012	