



[Home](#)

2. Carbidopa/levodopa

Carbidopa and levodopa

Generic name: carbidopa and levodopa [*KAR-bi-DOE-pa-and-LEE-voe-DOE-pa*]

Brand names: [Crexont](#), [Dhivy](#), [Rytary](#), [Sinemet](#), [Sinemet CR](#)

Dosage forms: oral capsule, extended release (23.75 mg-95 mg; 35 mg-140 mg; 36.25 mg-145 mg; 48.75 mg-195 mg; 52.5 mg-210 mg; 61.25 mg-245 mg; 70 mg-280 mg; 87.5 mg-350 mg), ... [show all 4 dosage forms](#)

Drug class: [Dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Feb 4, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is carbidopa and levodopa?

Carbidopa and levodopa may be used alone or in combination with other medication to treat symptoms of [Parkinson's disease](#), such as stiffness or tremors in adults.

Carbidopa and levodopa is also used in adults to treat Parkinson's disease caused by infection, carbon monoxide poisoning or manganese intoxication.

Carbidopa and levodopa may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Carbidopa and levodopa side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives, difficult breathing, swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Tell your doctor right away if you have new or sudden changes in mood or behavior, including depression or anxiety, [panic attacks](#), trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, aggressive, more active or talkative, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Some people taking carbidopa and levodopa have fallen asleep during normal daytime activities such as working or driving after starting carbidopa and levodopa and up to a year after. Tell your doctor if you have any problems with daytime sleepiness.

Carbidopa and levodopa may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- **signs of stomach bleeding**--bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- uncontrolled muscle movements, blurred vision, eye pain or redness, seeing halos around lights; or
- **severe nervous system reaction**--very stiff (rigid) muscles, high fever, sweating, confusion, fast or uneven heartbeats, tremors, feeling like you might pass out.

You may have increased sexual urges, unusual urges to gamble, or other intense urges while taking this medicine. Talk with your doctor if this occurs.

Your dose may be reduced or permanently discontinued if you have certain side effects.

Common side effects of carbidopa and levodopa may include:

- uncontrolled muscle movements;
- dry mouth, anxiety, headache, dizziness;
- drops in blood pressure or feeling light-headed when standing up;
- sleep problems (insomnia), strange dreams, muscle contractions; or
- nausea, vomiting, [constipation](#).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Carbidopa / levodopa side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Sinemet

Sinemet is used to treat symptoms of Parkinson's disease, such as muscle stiffness, tremors ...

Reviews & ratings

7.7 / 10

[30 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Rytary

Rytary is used to treat symptoms of Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism that may follow carbon ...

Reviews & ratings

6.2 / 10

[30 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Crexont

Crexont (carbidopa and levodopa) is an extended-release capsule that may be used to treat symptoms ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Exelon

Exelon (rivastigmine) is used to treat dementia caused by Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[15 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Gocovri

Gocovri (amantadine) is used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Includes Gocovri side ...

Reviews & ratings

[2 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Duopa

Duopa is used to treat movement problems in people with advanced Parkinson's disease. Learn about ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Do not use this medicine if you have used a MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days, such as [isocarboxazid](#), linezolid, [methylene blue](#) injection, [phenelzine](#), or [tranylcypromine](#).

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking carbidopa and levodopa. **Tell your doctor right away if you have any sudden changes in mood or behavior, or thoughts about suicide.**

Before taking this medicine

You should not use carbidopa and levodopa if you are allergic to it or any of its ingredients, or if you have narrow-angle glaucoma.

Do not use carbidopa and levodopa if you have used a MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days. A dangerous [drug interaction](#) could occur. MAO inhibitors include isocarboxazid, linezolid, methylene blue injection, phenelzine, and tranylcypromine. **Wait at least 14 days after stopping an MAO inhibitor before you take carbidopa and levodopa.**

If you already take levodopa, you must stop taking it at least 12 hours before you start taking carbidopa and levodopa.

Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had:

- an endocrine disease, [heart disease](#), [high blood pressure](#), or [heart attack](#);
- asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or other breathing disorder;
- [skin cancer](#) (melanoma), a stomach or intestinal ulcer;
- glaucoma, depression, mental illness, or psychosis;
- if you received general anesthesia; or
- liver or kidney disease.

The **orally disintegrating tablet** may contain phenylalanine and could be harmful if you have [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU). Ask your doctor about your risk.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking carbidopa and levodopa. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your family or caregivers should also watch for sudden changes in your behavior.

People with Parkinson's disease may have a higher risk of skin cancer (melanoma). Ask your doctor about skin symptoms to watch for.

It is not known if carbidopa and levodopa will harm an unborn baby. The benefit of this treatment may outweigh any risks to the mother and baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using carbidopa and levodopa.

How should I take carbidopa and levodopa?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may

occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Stop taking any other medications that contain carbidopa and levodopa when you start taking the **extended-release** form.

Your dose needs may change if you switch to a different brand, strength, or form of this medicine. **Avoid medication errors by using exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor.**

Take this medicine at evenly spaced intervals. **Follow your doctor's instructions about whether to take your medication with food or on an empty stomach.**

Swallow the **capsule** whole and do not crush, chew, break, or open it. The **tablet** is sometimes broken in half to give the correct dose. Always swallow a **whole or half tablet** without chewing or crushing.

If you cannot swallow an extended-release capsule whole, open it and mix the medicine with applesauce. Swallow the mixture right away without chewing.

Remove an **orally disintegrating tablet** from the package with dry hands only when you are ready to use the medicine. Allow the **orally disintegrating tablet** to dissolve in your mouth without chewing.

It may take up to several weeks before your symptoms improve. **Tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve or if the effects of this medicine wear off quickly between doses.**

Carbidopa and levodopa will most likely darken the color of your saliva, urine, or sweat to an orange or red color. This is a normal effect and is not harmful. This may also cause stains to your underwear that may be permanent.

You may need frequent medical tests and your doctor will need to check your progress on a regular basis.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using carbidopa and levodopa.

Do not stop using carbidopa and levodopa suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms (such as agitation, confusion, tingling). Ask your doctor before stopping the medicine.

You may need to follow a special diet. Learn about the foods you should eat or avoid.

Store tightly closed at room temperature, away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed Carbidopa / levodopa dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

Get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while taking carbidopa and levodopa?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how carbidopa and levodopa will affect you. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries. Also avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.

Drinking alcohol with this medicine can cause side effects.

Avoid taking iron supplements, high-fat, or high-calorie meals before or after taking carbidopa and levodopa. These can make it harder for your body to absorb carbidopa and levodopa.

What other drugs will affect carbidopa and levodopa?

Using carbidopa and levodopa with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

When you start or stop taking carbidopa and levodopa, your doctor may need to adjust the doses of other medicines you use on a regular basis.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- phenytoin, [metoclopramide](#);
- [papaverine](#), isoniazid, selegiline, reserpine, [tetrabenazine](#);
- vitamin or mineral supplements that contain iron; or
- medicine to treat blood pressure, nausea or vomiting, anxiety, mood disorders, or mental illness such as [schizophrenia](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect carbidopa and levodopa, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Carbidopa / levodopa drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does carbidopa/levodopa interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

carbidopa/levodopa

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Popular FAQ

How long does it take carbidopa levodopa to work?



How often should carbidopa/levodopa be taken?



Can carbidopa/levodopa cause high blood pressure?



More FAQ

- [What foods should be avoided when taking levodopa?](#)
- [Is Rytary better than Sinemet?](#)
- [What is the difference between carbidopa, levodopa, and Rytary?](#)
- [How long does it take for Rytary to start working?](#)
- [How long does Rytary stay in your system?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

More about carbidopa / levodopa

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(94\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents](#)

Patient resources

- [Carbidopa and levodopa enteral drug information](#)

Other brands

[Sinemet](#), [Rytary](#), [Crexont](#), [Sinemet CR](#), ... +3 more

Professional resources

- [Levodopa/Carbidopa monograph](#)
- [Carbidopa and Levodopa \(FDA\)](#)
- [Carbidopa and Levodopa ODT \(FDA\)](#)
- [Carbidopa and Levodopa Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Sinemet](#), [Rytary](#), [Crexont](#), [Sinemet CR](#), ... +3 more

Related treatment guides

- [Parkinson's Disease](#)
- [Restless Legs Syndrome](#)
- [Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome](#)
- [GTP-CH Deficiency](#)

Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 16.02.

DRUG STATUS

| Availability | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Rx | Prescription only |
| Pregnancy & Lactation | |
|  | Risk data available |
| CSA Schedule* | |
| N/A | Not a controlled drug |
| Approval History | |
|  | Drug history at FDA |

User Reviews & Ratings

7.2 / 10

[94 Reviews](#)

Images

[Carbidopa and Levodopa 25 mg / 100 mg \(TV 9702\)](#)



Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.