

[Home](#)

2. Pramipexole

Pramipexole

Generic name: pramipexole [*pram-i-PEX-ole*]**Brand names:** [Mirapex ER](#), [Mirapex](#)**Dosage forms:** oral tablet (0.125 mg; 0.25 mg; 0.5 mg; 0.75 mg; 1 mg; 1.5 mg), oral tablet, extended release (0.375 mg; 0.75 mg; 1.5 mg; 2.25 mg; 3 mg; 3.75 mg; 4.5 mg)**Drug class:** [Dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Apr 9, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is pramipexole?

Pramipexole has some of the same effects as a chemical called dopamine, which occurs naturally in your body. Low levels of dopamine in the brain are associated with [Parkinson's disease](#).

Pramipexole is used to treat symptoms of Parkinson's disease (stiffness, tremors, muscle spasms, and poor muscle control). Pramipexole is also used to treat [restless legs syndrome](#) (RLS).

Only **immediate-release pramipexole (Mirapex)** is approved to treat either Parkinson symptoms or RLS. **Extended-release pramipexole (Mirapex ER)** is approved only to treat Parkinson symptoms.

Parkinson's and RLS are two separate disorders. Having one of these conditions will not cause you to have the other condition.

Pramipexole may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Pramipexole side effects

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

Some people taking pramipexole have fallen asleep during normal daytime activities such as working, talking, eating, or driving. Tell your doctor if you have any problems with daytime sleepiness or [drowsiness](#).

Pramipexole may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not real);
- extreme drowsiness, falling asleep suddenly, even after feeling alert;

- tremors, twitching or uncontrollable muscle movements;
- unexplained [muscle pain](#), tenderness, or weakness;
- vision problems; or
- **posture changes you cannot control**, such as involuntary bending forward of your neck, bending forward at the waist, or tilting sideways when you sit, stand, or walk.

Side effects such as confusion or hallucinations may be more likely in older adults.

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

Common side effects of pramipexole may include:

- [muscle spasm](#) or muscle weakness;
- drowsiness, dizziness, weakness;
- confusion, memory problems;
- dry mouth;
- nausea, [constipation](#);
- increased urination; or
- sleep problems (insomnia), unusual dreams.

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.

 [Pramipexole 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

Omvox

Omvox is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Requip

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

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[122 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Amantadine

Easy-to-read patient leaflet for amantadine. Includes indications, proper use, special ...

Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[54 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Mirapex

Mirapex (pramipexole) treats the symptoms of Parkinson's disease and is also used to treat Restless ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[121 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Follow all directions on your medicine label and package. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all your medical conditions, allergies, and all medicines you use.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use pramipexole if you are allergic to it.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [low blood pressure](#);
- dizziness after getting up too fast;
- daytime drowsiness;
- kidney disease; or
- problems controlling your muscle movements.

People with Parkinson's disease may have a higher risk of [skin cancer](#) (melanoma). Talk to your doctor about this risk and what skin symptoms to watch for.

It is not known whether pramipexole will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using pramipexole.

It is not known whether pramipexole passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

How should I take pramipexole?

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.

If you are taking immediate-release pramipexole (**Mirapex**) you should not take extended-release pramipexole (**Mirapex ER**) at the same time.

The dose and timing of pramipexole in treating Parkinson's disease is different from the dose and timing in treating RLS. Follow the directions on your prescription label. Ask your pharmacist if you have any questions about the kind of pramipexole you receive at the pharmacy.

Pramipexole can be taken with or without food. Take the medication with food if it upsets your stomach.

Do not crush, chew, or break an **extended-release tablet (Mirapex ER)**. Swallow it whole.

If you are taking this medication for RLS, tell your doctor if your symptoms get worse, if they occur in the morning or earlier than usual in the evening, or if you feel restless symptoms in your hands or arms.

Do not stop using pramipexole suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

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

 [Pramipexole patient tips](#) (more detail)

Pramipexole dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Parkinson's Disease:

Immediate-release:

Initial dose: 0.125 mg orally three times a day

Titration: Increase gradually in small dose increments no more frequently than ever 5 to 7 days

Maintenance dose: 1.5 to 4.5 mg per day based on efficacy and tolerability

Maximum dose: 4.5 mg per day

Comment: The following dose titration was used in clinical trials:

Week 2, 0.25 mg 3 times a day

Week 3, 0.5 mg 3 times a day

Week 4, 0.75 mg 3 times a day

Week 5, 1 mg 3 times a day

Week 6, 1.25 mg 3 times a day

Week 7, 1.5 mg 3 times a day.

-When used in combination with levodopa, the levodopa dose was reduced by an average of 27% from baseline providing a concomitant dose of approximately 800 mg per day.

Extended-release:

Initial dose: 0.375 mg orally once a day

Titration: Increase gradually no more frequently than every 5 to 7 days, first dose increase should be to 0.75 mg once a day followed by incremental increases of 0.75 mg; assess therapeutic response and tolerability at a minimum of 5 days after each dose increase.

Maximum dose: 4.5 mg per day

SWITCHING FROM IMMEDIATE-RELEASE TO EXTENDED-RELEASE:

-Patients may be switched overnight from immediate-release tablets to extended-release tablets at the same daily dose; monitor closely to determine if dose adjustments may be necessary.

Comments:

-If a significant interruption in therapy occurs, re-titration may be necessary; upon discontinuation, doses should be tapered.

Use: Treatment of Parkinson's disease

Usual Adult Dose for Restless Legs Syndrome:

Immediate-release:

Initial dose: 0.125 mg orally once a day 2 to 3 hours before bedtime

Titration: If needed, dose may be titrated upwards by increments of 0.125 mg every 4 to 7 days.

Maximum dose: 0.5 mg orally once a day

Comments:

-Extended-release tablets are not indicated for Restless Legs Syndrome.

-Doses of 0.75 mg once a day were used in clinical trials, but were not found to provide additional benefit as compared to the 0.5 mg dose.

Use: For the treatment of moderate to severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome.

 [Detailed Pramipexole 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.

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 pramipexole?

Do not drink alcohol. Dangerous side effects can occur when alcohol is combined with pramipexole.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how pramipexole will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.

What other drugs will affect pramipexole?

Using pramipexole 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.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- [cimetidine](#);
- [metoclopramide](#); or
- **medicine to treat mental illness**, such as [chlorpromazine](#), [droperidol](#), [fluphenazine](#), [haloperidol](#), [perphenazine](#), [prochlorperazine](#), [thioridazine](#), and others.

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

 [Pramipexole drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does pramipexole interact with my other drugs?

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

+

Add

More about pramipexole

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)

- [Reviews \(242\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Pramipexole Extended-Release Tablets patient information](#)
- [Pramipexole Tablets](#)

Other brands

[Mirapex](#), [Mirapex ER](#)

Professional resources

- [Pramipexole monograph](#)
- [Pramipexole \(FDA\)](#)
- [Pramipexole ER Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Mirapex](#), [Mirapex ER](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Restless Legs Syndrome](#)
- [Periodic Limb Movement Disorder](#)
- [Tardive Dyskinesia](#)
- [Parkinson's Disease](#)

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](#)

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

6.7 / 10

[242 Reviews](#)

Images

[Pramipexole Dihydrochloride 0.125 mg \(91\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

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.