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2. Bromocriptine

Bromocriptine

Generic name: bromocriptine (Parlodel) [*BROE-moe-KRIP-teen*]

Brand name: [Parlodel](#)

Dosage forms: oral capsule (5 mg), oral tablet (2.5 mg)

Drug classes: [Dopaminergic antiparkinsonism agents](#), [Prolactin inhibitors](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Mar 21, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is bromocriptine (Parlodel)?

This medication guide provides information about the **Parlodel** brand of bromocriptine. **Cycloset** is another brand of bromocriptine that is not covered in this medication guide.

The **Parlodel** brand of bromocriptine is used to treat certain conditions caused by a hormone imbalance in which there is too much prolactin in the blood ([hyperprolactinemia](#)). High prolactin levels may cause sexual problems, hot flashes, menstrual problems or infertility in women, muscle loss in men, breast enlargement in men and women, and lack of sexual development in adolescents. **Parlodel** is also used to treat these disorders when they are caused by a noncancerous tumor of the pituitary gland that can overproduce prolactin.

Parlodel is sometimes used together with surgery or radiation in treating acromegaly, a condition caused by a pituitary gland tumor that produces too much growth hormone.

Parlodel is also used to treat symptoms of [Parkinson's disease](#), such as stiffness, tremors, muscle spasms, and poor muscle control.

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

Parlodel 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.

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

- numbness, pain, and paleness or discoloration in your fingers or toes (especially in cold weather);
- vision problems, constant runny nose;
- chest pain, pain when you breathe, [fast heart rate](#), rapid breathing, feeling short of breath (especially when lying down);

- back pain, swelling in your ankles or feet, urinating less than usual or not at all;
- confusion, hallucinations, feeling like you might pass out;
- muscle movements you cannot control, [loss of balance](#) or coordination; or
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.

Parlodel may cause you to fall asleep during normal daytime activities such as working, talking, eating, or driving. You may fall asleep suddenly, even after feeling alert. Tell your doctor if you have any problems with daytime sleepiness or drowsiness.

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.

Common side effects of bromocriptine may include:

- dizziness;
- headache;
- hallucinations;
- nausea, constipation; or
- abnormal involuntary movements.

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.

 [Bromocriptine side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use **Parlodel** if you have uncontrolled [high blood pressure](#), if you have high blood pressure caused by pregnancy (eclampsia or preeclampsia), or if you recently had a baby and you have a history of [coronary artery disease](#) or severe [heart disease](#). **You may need to stop taking Parlodel if you become pregnant during treatment.** Follow your doctor's instructions.

Parlodel may cause you to fall asleep suddenly, even after feeling alert. Avoid driving or other hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you.

Do not breastfeed.

Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant while taking bromocriptine.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to bromocriptine or to an ergot medicine (dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine).

You should not use **Parlodel** if:

- you are breastfeeding;
- you have uncontrolled high blood pressure (hypertension);

- you have hypertension caused by pregnancy (including eclampsia and preeclampsia); or
- you recently had a baby and you have a history of coronary artery disease or severe heart disease.

Bromocriptine may contain lactose. Before taking **Parlodel**, tell your doctor if you have a hereditary form of galactose intolerance, severe lactase deficiency, or glucose-galactose malabsorption.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- high or [low blood pressure](#), heart disease, or a heart attack;
- liver or kidney disease;
- a tumor of the pituitary gland;
- a stomach ulcer, stomach or intestinal bleeding; or
- mental illness or psychosis.

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

Follow your doctor's instructions about using this medicine **if you are pregnant or you become pregnant**. A [pituitary tumor](#) in the mother can expand during pregnancy. High blood pressure can also occur during pregnancy and bromocriptine could be dangerous if taken by a pregnant woman with high blood pressure.

Some women take **Parlodel** in order to normalize menstrual periods and increase their chances of becoming pregnant. **Tell your doctor as soon as you become pregnant. You may need to stop taking Parlodel.**

If you are not taking **Parlodel** to help you get pregnant, use a barrier form of [birth control](#) (condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, or contraceptive sponge) to prevent pregnancy during treatment. Your doctor may also want you to have a pregnancy test every 4 weeks during treatment.

Do not breastfeed while using this medicine.

Parlodel should not be given to a child younger than 11 years old.

How should I take Parlodel?

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.

Take **Parlodel** with food, even if you take it at bedtime.

You will need frequent medical tests.

You should not stop using Parlodel suddenly. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

 [Detailed Bromocriptine dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine with food 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. Overdose symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, constipation, sweating, pale skin, dizziness, drowsiness, yawning, confusion, hallucinations, and fainting.

What should I avoid while taking Parlodel?

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

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.

What other drugs will affect Parlodel?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect **Parlodel**, especially medicines to treat:

- migraine headaches;
- infections;
- psychotic conditions such as [bipolar disorder](#) or [schizophrenia](#);
- Parkinson's disease;
- restless leg syndrome; or
- acromegaly (too much growth hormone).

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

Parlodel can make certain migraine headache medicines less effective when taken at the same time. Avoid taking Parlodel within 6 hours before or 6 hours after you take an ergot headache medicine (such as [dihydroergotamine](#), ergotamine, ergonovine, [methylergonovine](#)).

Many other drugs can interact with bromocriptine. Below is just a partial list. Tell your doctor if you are using:

- an antidepressant, a sedative or opioid medication, medicines to treat [psychiatric disorders](#);
- an antibiotic or antifungal medication, anti-malaria drugs;
- asthma or allergy medication;
- cancer medicine, medicines used to prevent [organ transplant](#) rejection;
- cholesterol-lowering drugs such as simvastatin (Zocor);

- an oral diabetes medication;
- heart or blood pressure medications, heart rhythm medication;
- HIV or AIDS medications;
- seizure medications;
- sildenafil (Viagra) and other [erectile dysfunction](#) medicines; or
- stomach acid reducers.

This list is not complete and there are many other drugs that can interact with bromocriptine. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to any healthcare provider who treats you.

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

Does bromocriptine interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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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.

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Availability		
Rx	Prescription only	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
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User Reviews & Ratings

5.9 / 10

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