

# Memantine (Namenda®)



## Drug Education Handout

Why is this drug is used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treatment of mild to severe stages of Alzheimer’s Disease.</li></ul>															
Typical dosing:	<p><b>Tablet or Solution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin with 5 mg daily</li><li>• Increase the dose by 5 mg <b>weekly</b> if well tolerated:</li></ul> <table><tr><th>Interval</th><th>Morning Daily Dose</th><th>Evening Daily Dose</th></tr><tr><td>Week 1</td><td>5 mg</td><td>--</td></tr><tr><td>Week 2</td><td>5 mg</td><td>5 mg</td></tr><tr><td>Week 3</td><td>10 mg</td><td>5 mg</td></tr><tr><td>Week 4</td><td>10 mg</td><td>10 mg</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target dose is 10 mg twice daily OR 20 mg once daily</li></ul> <p><b>Capsule, extended release:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin with 7 mg daily</li><li>• Increase the dose by 7 mg <b>weekly</b> if well tolerated: 14 mg daily → 21 mg daily → 28 mg daily</li><li>• Target dose is 28 mg daily</li></ul> <p><i>***If treatment is stopped for longer than 3 days, restart at a lower dose and increase weekly to the target dose***</i></p>	Interval	Morning Daily Dose	Evening Daily Dose	Week 1	5 mg	--	Week 2	5 mg	5 mg	Week 3	10 mg	5 mg	Week 4	10 mg	10 mg
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Available Formulations & Estimated Cost:	<p><b>1. Tablet, immediate release (generic and brand):</b> <u>Strengths:</u> 5 and 10 mg tablets <u>Estimated Cost 30 day supply:</u> Generic=\$120; Brand=\$375</p> <p><b>2. Solution, immediate release (brand only):</b> <u>Strengths:</u> 2 mg/mL <u>Estimated Cost (360 mL bottle):</u> Generic=\$350; Brand=\$725</p> <p><b>3. Capsule, extended release (brand only):</b> <u>Strengths:</u> 7 mg, 14 mg, 21 mg, 28 mg <u>Estimated Cost (30 day supply):</u> Brand=\$356</p> <p><b>★Titration Kits also available★</b></p>															

<b>Contraindications &amp; Precautions for this drug:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypersensitivity to memantine. May include: swelling, rash, hives, shortness of breath, seizures.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Side Effects:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Constipation</li> <li>• Dizziness</li> </ul>

<b>Managing this medication:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take with or without food.</li> <li>2. Take this drug at the same time each day.</li> <li>3. <i>Inform your health-care provider if you experience: very bad dizziness, low mood, change in the way you act, seizures or other side effects.</i></li> </ol>
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#### References:

1. Lexicomp – memantine, Namenda®
2. Red Book Average Wholesale Price of Drugs 2013
3. Kirby Lee, PharmD, MA, MAS and Ron Finley, RPh, UCSF Memory and Aging Center