

Parkinson's: Switching To A Transdermal Rotigotine Patch In The Dying Patient

- If usually taking Levodopa and Dopamine agonists, calculate Rotigotine patch conversions for both and add together;
- The maximum dose is 16mg / 24 hours. Beware that patients on very large doses of Levodopa and/or Dopamine agonists can be relatively under-dosed, despite the maximum dose of Rotigotine;
- Patches are available in 2mg / 4mg / 6mg / 8mg strengths, meaning only approximate dose conversions can be made - do not cut patches to achieve correct dose;
- Look out for side effects such as vomiting, skin reactions, hypotension, hallucinations and increased confusion. Dopamine agonists can cause Impulse Control Disorders (*ICD's*) but in the dying phase this is unlikely to be an issue.

Caution in patients with delirium and dementia - it is advisable to under-dose the conversion by 2mg or, if the Rotigotine patch dose is 10mg or more, by 4mg.

Switching Oral Dopamine Agonists to Rotigotine Patch

Pramipexole Standard Release (salt content dose)	Pramipexole Modified Release (salt content dose)	Ropinirole Standard Release	Ropinirole Modified Release	Rotigotine Transdermal Patch Equivalent
0.125 mg TDS	375 micrograms	0.75mg TDS	2 mg/day	2 mg/24 hours
0.25 mg TDS	750 micrograms	1 mg TDS	4 mg/day	4 mg/24 hours
0.5mg TDS	1.5 mg	2 mg TDS	6 mg/day	6 mg/24 hours
0.75 mg TDS	2.25 mg	3 mg TDS	8 mg/day	8 mg/24 hours
1 mg TDS	3 mg	4 mg TDS	12 mg/day	12 mg/24 hours
1.25 mg TDS	3.75mg	6 mg TDS	16 mg/day	14 mg/24 hours
1.5 mg TDS	4.5 mg	8 mg TDS	24 mg/day	16 mg/24 hours

[See Parkinson's References online 2, 19, 20](#)

Switching Levodopa to Rotigotine Patch

Current Levodopa Regimen	Rotigotine Transdermal Patch Equivalent
Madopar® or Sinemet® 62.5 mg BD	2 mg /24 hours
Madopar CR® 125mg or Half Sinemet CR® 125mg	2 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 62.5 mg TDS	4mg /24 hours
Sinemet CR® 250mg	4mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 62.5 mg QDS	6 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 125 mg TDS	8 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 125 mg QDS	10 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 187.5 mg TDS	12 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 187.5 mg QDS	16 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 250 mg TDS	16 mg /24 hours
Madopar® or Sinemet® 250 mg QDS	16 mg /24 hours
Stalevo® 50/12.5/200 mg TDS	6 mg /24 hours
Stalevo® 100/25/200 mg TDS	10 mg /24 hours
Stalevo® 100/25/200 mg QDS	14 mg /24 hours
Stalevo® 150/37.5/200 mg TDS	16 mg /24 hours
Stalevo® 200/50/200 mg TDS	16 mg /24 hours

[See Parkinson's References online 1,2,6,7,13,14,18](#)