

# 23 - 6. Other agents adverse effects

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© SPMM Course 6. Other agents - adverse effects Cholinesterase inhibitors: Donepezil causes nausea, diarrhea, insomnia, vomiting, muscle cramps commonly. Rivastigmine causes similar symptoms albeit at a higher frequency of some. Galantamine too has a similar profile. Tacrine is not used anymore in UK due to reports of fatal hepatotoxicity. By increasing central and peripheral cholinergic stimulation cholinesterase inhibitors, can

1. Increase the risk for GI bleeding especially in NSAID users or patients with peptic ulcer.
2. Produce bradycardia, especially in those with supraventricular conduction delay,
3. Exacerbate COPD
4. Cause urinary retention
5. Increase seizure risk
6. Prolong the effects of succinylcholine-type muscle relaxants Rivastigmine's metabolism does not depend on liver P450 enzymes, and, therefore, no drug interactions related to the P450 system have been observed. Memantine does not inhibit or induce hepatic microsomal enzymes; because it is excreted in the urine predominantly as unchanged drug, it is unlikely to be affected by drugs that affect hepatic enzyme function. Stimulants and other drugs used for ADHD: The most common adverse effects are anxiety, irritability, insomnia, tachycardia, cardiac arrhythmias, and dysphoria with decreased appetite. Tolerance usually develops for appetite loss. Less commonly self-limited exacerbation of movement disorders, such as tics and dyskinesias, may occur. Stimulants are linked to growth suppression. Bruxism and restlessness are also reported. Pemoline is associated with fulminant hepatic failure and is no longer used widely. Dependence can occur with methylphenidate though this is rare at doses used for ADHD. Side effects of atomoxetine are appetite loss, sexual dysfunction and dizziness; severe liver injury in has also been reported. Clonidine is not a popular option for treating tics/ADHD due to high rates of hypotension associated with it.

Hypnotics: Overdose of benzodiazepines can produce slurred speech, incoordination, unsteady gait, nystagmus, impairment in attention or memory, stupor or coma and behavioural changes

(inappropriate sexual or aggressive behaviour, mood lability, impaired judgment etc.).

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