Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

PATIENT EDUCATION

Amantadine

Generic immediate-release formulations / Gocovri / Osmolex ER

A guide for adults taking amantadine.
Follow the directions on your prescription and your provider's recommendations.

CHECK YOUR EXACT FORMULATION | REPORT NEW CONFUSION OR HALLUCINATIONS

Formulations: Immediate-release tablets, capsules, and liquid differ from extended-release formulations. Gocovri and Osmolex ER have their own timing and administration instructions. These formulations are not interchangeable dose for dose.

What it is used for

Amantadine treats certain movement symptoms. Immediate-release formulations may be used for Parkinson disease and medication-induced stiffness, tremor, or slowed movement. Extended-release formulations have specific Parkinson-related indications. Confirm the purpose of your prescription.

How it works

Amantadine affects dopamine signaling and NMDA glutamate receptors involved in movement. These effects can improve some symptoms but may also cause hallucinations, confusion, or other unwanted changes.

What to expect over time

Some movement effects improve within days, while dose adjustments and follow-up clarify overall benefit. Track specific symptoms such as tremor, stiffness, walking, and falls.

If new movements appear or the medicine seems less effective, contact your provider. Different movement problems may need different treatment.

Taking your medication

- Take the exact formulation and schedule prescribed. Do not substitute a different release formulation.
- Follow formulation-specific instructions for food, swallowing, or opening a capsule. Do not crush an extended-release formulation.
- Measure liquid with an oral dosing device.
- If you miss a dose, follow your formulation's instructions. Do not double up. Consult with your provider before stopping.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

AMANTADINE / 02

Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Nausea, dry mouth, or constipation
- Dizziness or trouble sleeping
- Swelling of the ankles or legs
- A blotchy, netlike purple skin pattern

Keeping track of treatment

Some side effects resolve with time; others may require a change of medication. Discuss persistent or bothersome side effects with your provider.

Kidney function is especially important because reduced clearance can cause the medicine to accumulate. Older adults may need a lower dose or a longer interval between doses.

Review hallucinations, confusion, sleepiness, mood changes, compulsive urges, blood pressure, and falls. Report blurred vision or eye discomfort promptly.

If you take too much

For a suspected overdose, call Poison Control at **1-800-222-1222** immediately, even if you feel well. Call 911 for a seizure, collapse, trouble breathing, or inability to wake.

Before you start

Discuss kidney disease, heart failure, swelling, low blood pressure, glaucoma, seizures, psychiatric symptoms, and previous suicidal thoughts.

Discuss pregnancy, pregnancy plans, and breastfeeding with your provider. Treatment decisions should consider both the medication and the condition being treated.

Medicines and interactions

Review all your medications with your provider, including over-the-counter medicines and supplements. Have new medications checked before taking them.

Sedating antihistamines, bladder medicines, and other anticholinergic drugs can add constipation, urinary problems, and confusion.

Alcohol and sedatives can worsen dizziness and impaired judgment. Stimulants and medicines that change kidney clearance also require review. Tell your provider about diuretics and all other movement medicines.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

AMANTADINE / 03

Living with your treatment

When to get help

Emergency symptoms. Get emergency care for severe confusion, a seizure, trouble breathing, or fever with marked muscle stiffness, especially after abruptly reducing or stopping treatment.

Prompt medical advice. Report hallucinations, new compulsive behavior, significant swelling, difficulty urinating, eye pain, or vision changes promptly. Severe sleepiness or falling asleep unexpectedly requires reassessment before driving.

If you feel unsafe or have thoughts of self-harm, call 911 or go to an emergency department.

Your questions answered

Does this treat every medication-related movement?
No. Stiffness and tremor, restlessness, and tardive dyskinesia are different problems. Your provider should assess the movement before selecting treatment.

Can I stop if I no longer need it?
Consult with your provider. Abrupt stopping can cause a major return of symptoms, confusion, or a serious fever-and-stiffness reaction. A gradual reduction may be needed.

Why is the kidney test relevant?
A dose that was tolerated previously can become excessive if kidney function declines. Tell your provider about dehydration, a new kidney problem, or another major illness.

Everyday tips

Stand up slowly and keep walking areas clear if dizzy.

Ask someone close to you to report unusual behavior or confusion.

Confirm the brand and release type at each refill; morning and bedtime instructions can differ.

Storage and safety

Keep medication in its labeled container, away from excess heat and moisture and out of reach of children and pets. Do not share it. Ask a pharmacy about disposal of unused medication.

Sources

DailyMed: Amantadine immediate-release prescribing information

Educational handout; does not replace your prescription or provider's recommendations.