

Amantadine is a medication that is sometimes used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD). It can be effective in reducing some of the symptoms associated with PD, particularly dyskinesias.

Dyskinesia is a movement disorder that can occur as a consequence of long-term treatment with levodopa in patients with PD. Dyskinesia can cause involuntary movements, such as writhing, twisting, or jerking, which can be uncomfortable and interfere with daily activities.

Amantadine works by blocking a type of receptor in the brain, which can help to reduce the severity of dyskinesia. However, it does not directly treat the underlying cause of PD, and its effectiveness can vary between individuals.

In addition to its anti-dyskinesia effects, amantadine may also help to improve other symptoms of PD, such as tremors and rigidity. It may be used alone or in combination with other medications, depending on the individual's symptoms and overall health.

As with all medications, amantadine can cause side effects. The most common side effects include dry mouth, constipation, dizziness, and insomnia.

Less commonly, it can cause hallucinations, confusion, and agitation, especially in older adults. Rarely, it can cause a condition called livedo reticularis, which is a skin discoloration that can be a sign of blood vessel problems.

High doses of amantadine can also be toxic to the kidneys, so regular monitoring of kidney function is important while taking this medication.

It is important to take amantadine exactly as prescribed by a healthcare professional. Do not stop taking it abruptly, as this can cause withdrawal symptoms.

If you experience any concerning side effects or changes in symptoms while taking amantadine, be sure to contact your doctor. They may need to adjust your dosage or switch you to a different medication.