

Rivastigmine is a medication used to treat mild to moderate dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. It belongs to a class of medications called acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, which work by increasing the levels of acetylcholine in the brain, a chemical that is important for learning and memory.

Rivastigmine is typically taken orally as a capsule or solution and is usually started at a low dose and gradually increased to the optimal therapeutic dose. The medication is usually taken twice a day with meals.

Some of the most common side effects associated with rivastigmine include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, weight loss, and dizziness.

In some cases, more serious side effects may occur, such as seizures, irregular heartbeat, or difficulty breathing. Patients will normally have monitoring at initiation with ECGs (heart trace) and prior to dose increases. It is important to inform your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms while taking rivastigmine.

Because rivastigmine can affect heart rate and blood pressure, it may not be suitable for individuals with certain medical conditions, such as heart disease or high blood pressure. It is also important to inform your specialist if you are taking any other medications, as some drugs may interact with rivastigmine.