PRAMIPEXOLE EXTENDED RELEASE

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The non-ergot dopamine agonist pramipexole is currently indicated for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of idiopathic PD and for the treatment of moderate-to-severe primary restless legs syndrome. A new extended release formulation of pramipexole has now also been launched in Europe and the US to improve ease-of-use, compliance and provide a more continuous effect over 24 hours. Before initiating any treatment, the benefit-risk ratio to the individual patient must be considered. For pramipexole in the treatment of PD, this means taking into account the available evidence regarding its symptomatic efficacy, effect on delaying long-term levodopa-related motor complications, benefit on non-motor symptoms such as depression, and its safety and tolerability profile. Studies have shown that pramipexole is effective as monotherapy in early PD and as adjunctive therapy in advanced disease. Trials further suggest that the benefits of pramipexole may extend beyond the relief of motor symptoms (akinesia, rigidity and tremor at rest) to amelioration of depressive symptoms in PD. Pramipexole is generally well-tolerated however, compared to levodopa treatment with pramipexole may be associated with a higher rate of some dopaminergic side effects.