



MYASTHENIA GRAVIS MEDICATIONS TO USE WITH CAUTION

*This list is not comprehensive and these drugs may affect each person differently.
Please check with your neurologist before surgeries or adding medications.*

Key:

- 1 - Contraindicated. Avoid in MG patients, even if disease is controlled.
- 2 - Likely to worsen MG. Systemic administration should only be done in a hospital where ventilation support is available.
- 3 - May worsen MG. Usually is well tolerated but use with caution.
- 4 - Have caused problems in rare cases. Usually not a problem for the majority of MG patients.
- 5 - Have been shown to cause an autoimmune, temporary form of MG.

ANTIBIOTICS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Ketolide	1	Ketek, Ketek pak	Telithromycin	
Aminoglycosides	2	Gentak, Garamycin, Nebcin, Amikin, Tobrex, Tobrasol	Gentamicin, Amikacin, Tobramycin, Neomycin, Streptomycin	Eye preparations may exacerbate ophthalmic myasthenia

ANTIBIOTICS (CONT'D)

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Polypeptides	2	AK-Tracin, etc.	Bacitracin, Polymyxin, Colistin	Safe as topicals
Glycopeptides	2	Vancocin	Vancomycin	
Lincosamide	2	Cleocin	Clindamycin	
Fluoroquinolones	1	Cipro, Levaquin, Gatiflo, Noroxin, Floxin, etc.	Ciprofloxacin, Levofloxacin, Gatifloxacin, Norfloxacin, Ofloxacin, etc.	Ear preparations generally considered safe
Macrolides	3	Ery-Tab, Zithromax, Biaxin, etc.	Erythromycin, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, etc.	
Tetracyclines	3	Minocin, Doryx, Oraxyl, etc.	Minocycline, Doxycycline, Tetracycline, etc.	
Sulfonamides	4	Bactrim, Septra, etc.	Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim, etc.	
Penicillins	4	Principen, Amoxil, Veetids, etc.	Ampicillin, Amoxicillin, Penicillin VK, Penicillin G, etc.	Little evidence of any other penicillin causing problems.
Carbopenems	4	Primaxin	Imipenem	
Aminoquinolone, Cinchona Alkaloid	3	Plaquenil, Quaalquin, Aralen, etc.	Hydroxychloroquine, Quinine, Chloroquine etc.	These are antimalarials, but may be used for other indications.
Anti-retroviral	3	Ritonavir		
Other	3	Macrobid Flagyl	Nitrofurantoin Metronidazole	

CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Class 1 Antiarrhythmics	2	Procanbid, Quinaglute, Pronestyl, Xylocaine, etc.	Procainamide, Quinidine, Lidocaine, etc.	Avoid use if possible unless arrhythmia is an emergency and there's no alternative.
Beta Blockers	3	Tenormin, Toprol, Lopressor, Inderal, Trandat, Normodyne, etc.	Atenolol, Labetolol, Metoprolol, Sotalol, Propranolol, etc.	Oral, parenteral and ophthalmic preparations
Calcium Channel Blockers	3	Isoptin, Norvasc, Calan, Plendil, Rendil, Adalat, Procardia, etc.	Verapamil, Amlodipine, Nicardipine, Felodipine, Nifedipine, etc.	Verapamil is the worst drug in this class but all should be used with caution.
Statins	3	Lipitor, Zocor, etc.	Atorvastatin, Simvastatin, etc.	
Alpha Blockers	5	Aldomet	Alpha Methldopa	
Other	2	Arfonad	Trimethaphan	

Additionally, diuretics may cause low potassium as a side effect, which could cause muscle weakness. Patients should have their potassium levels monitored regularly.

ANTI-EPILEPTICS (SEIZURE MEDICATIONS)

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Hydantoin	3	Dilantin, Cerebryx	Phenytoin, Fosphenytoin	
Oxazolidinedione	5	Tridione	Trimethadione	
Barbiturates	4	Phenobarbitone, Pentobarbital, etc.	Phenobarbital, Pentobarbital, etc.	
Succinimide	4	Zarontin	Ethosuximide	
Dibenzapine Carboxamide	4	Tegretol, Carbatrol	Carbamazepine	
Other	3	Neurontin	Gabapentin	

EYE DROPS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitor	3	Diamox	Acetazolamide	
Local Anesthetic	3	Parcaine, etc.	Proparacaine, Bupivacaine, etc.	
Beta Blockers	3	Betoptic, Tenopt, etc.	Betaxolol, Timolol, etc.	
Anticholinesterase	3	Phospholine Iodide	Ecothiophate	

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Anti-manic	3	Eskalith	Lithium	
Phenothiazine	3	Largactil, Thorazine, Prolixin, Compazine, Trilafon, etc.	Chlorpromazine, Fluphenazine, Perphenazine, Prochlorperazine, Sparine, etc.	Also used as antiemetics
Butyrophenones	3	Haldol, Inapsine, Orap	Haloperidol, Droperidol, Pimozide	

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS (CONT'D)

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Benzodiazepines	4	Xanax, Valium, Ativan, etc.	Alprazolam, Diazepam, lorazepam, etc.	
Tricyclics	3	Elavil, Pamelor, Tofranil, etc.	Amitriptyline, Nortriptyline, Imipramine	
Other	3	Dexedrine	Amphetamine	

NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKING MEDICATIONS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
All Neuromuscular Blocking Drugs	2	Quelicin, Anectine, etc.	Succinylcholine, etc.	Only use if ventilation, etc. is available. Both polarizing and depolarizing classes are included.

ANESTHETICS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Inhalation Anesthetics	2	Forane, etc.	Isoflurane, etc.	
Local Anesthetics	3	Xylocaine, Novocaine, Sensorcaine, etc.	Cocaine, Lidocaine, Proparacaine, Bupivacaine, Procaine, etc.	

Patients should always consult with their physician before surgery. Patients should always tell their anesthesiologist about a MG diagnosis.

MISCELLANEOUS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Musculoskeletal agent	2	Botox	Botulinum Toxin Type A	Should not be used without discussion with neuromuscular specialist
Chemotherapeutic agents	2	Cisplatin, Platin, Fludarabine	Cisplatinum, Fludara	
Immunological Agent	5	Intron A, Interleukin	Interferon Alpha	
Other neurological agents	4	Rilutek, Copaxone	Riluzole, Glatiramer	
Antacids and Laxatives	3	Mylanta, Maalox, Citroma	Magnesium hydroxide, Magnesium citrate	Only antacids or laxatives containing magnesium are a problem
Corticosteroids	3	Deltasone, Decadron, etc.	Prednisone, Dexamethasone, etc.	Can be used to treat myasthenia

MISCELLANEOUS (CONT'D)

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Antiarthritic	2	Cuprimine	D-penicillamine	Should not be used without discussion with neuromuscular specialist
Narcotics	3	Morphine, Demerol, Fentanyl, MS Contin, etc.	Meperidine, Duragesic, etc.	If there is a respiratory compromise

SUPPLEMENTS

Class	Key	Brand Name	Generic Name	Comments
Magnesium	3	St. John's Wart, bottled water, vitamins to boost immune system functions		Dosages of magnesium in regular vitamins is okay because we need a small amount of magnesium every day

All drugs that are respiratory depressants or sedatives and hypnotics should be used with caution in patients with myasthenia.

Hematologists/Oncologists should be aware of a MG diagnosis before chemotherapy is initiated.

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