



DOWNLOADABLE
PATIENT GUIDE



Myasthenia Gravis

Drugs That Exacerbate Myasthenia Gravis

A Medical Safety Guide for Patients and Providers



Understanding which medications may worsen Myasthenia Gravis is essential for protecting muscle strength, preventing medical emergencies, and ensuring safer treatment decisions.

Myasthenia Gravis

Medical Patient Education Series

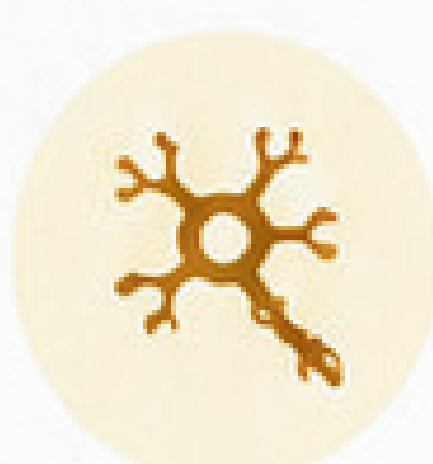


2026 Edition



 SECTION 1

Understanding the Danger



We provide this comprehensive list to protect your daily health. Certain common medications severely disrupt vital nerve communication.



Healthy individuals usually tolerate these minor chemical disruptions perfectly. However, MG patients lack spare acetylcholine receptors. Even relatively small disruptions may significantly worsen muscle weakness in susceptible patients.



You must share this document with every healthcare provider you visit. This information could protect you from dangerous medication reactions and potential medical emergencies.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Many common medications can worsen Myasthenia Gravis symptoms. Awareness and communication with your healthcare team are your best protection.

BE INFORMED. BE SAFE. BE EMPOWERED.



Always inform every doctor, dentist, pharmacist, and healthcare professional that you have Myasthenia Gravis before starting any new medication or treatment.





SECTION 2

Strongly Contraindicated Medications



Medical guidelines suggest you should avoid these specific medications whenever possible.



Telithromycin (Ketek)

You must completely avoid this ketolide antibiotic. Medical researchers directly link this specific drug to fatal respiratory failure in MG patients.



Botulinum Toxin (Botox)

You should strictly avoid this cosmetic and medical injection. This drug intentionally paralyzes muscles by blocking acetylcholine release. It causes severe, prolonged weakness.



D-Penicillamine

Doctors occasionally prescribe this drug for severe rheumatoid arthritis. Clinical studies prove it directly causes drug-induced Myasthenia Gravis.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Always inform every healthcare professional that you have Myasthenia Gravis before starting any new medication, injection, or treatment.



Knowledge is protection.
Share this guide. Stay safe.



Working together for a
stronger, safer MG community.



SECTION 3

Antibiotics to Use With Extreme Caution



Doctors frequently prescribe antibiotics for routine infections. However, several common antibiotic classes actively block neuromuscular transmission. Your doctor must monitor you closely if they prescribe these:



Fluoroquinolones

This class includes Ciprofloxacin and Levofloxacin. The FDA placed a strict black box warning on these drugs for MG patients.



Macrolides

This class includes Erythromycin and Azithromycin. They frequently trigger sudden symptom exacerbations.



Aminoglycosides

This class includes Gentamicin and Neomycin. Doctors usually administer these intravenously in hospitals. They severely weaken muscle contractions.



IMPORTANT NOTE

Always inform your healthcare provider that you have Myasthenia Gravis before taking any new antibiotic.



Your caution today
helps protect your
strength tomorrow.



Partner with your
healthcare team for
the **safest outcomes.**



Stay informed.
Stay vigilant.
Stay strong.



 SECTION 4

Cardiovascular Medications



Cardiologists prescribe these drugs for high blood pressure and arrhythmias. They require careful supervision.



Beta-Blockers

This class includes Atenolol, Metoprolol, and Propranolol. They lower your heart rate but may worsen myasthenia symptoms in susceptible patients.



Requires careful monitoring



Calcium Channel Blockers

This class includes Amlodipine and Verapamil. They relax blood vessels but may also significantly worsen muscle weakness in susceptible individuals.



Use only under medical supervision



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Never stop or change any cardiovascular medication without consulting your cardiologist. Work closely with both your neurologist and cardiologist to find the safest treatment plan for you.



Your heart health matters. **Your muscle health matters too.**



Regular monitoring and open communication **save lives.**



Safer choices today lead to a **stronger** tomorrow.





SECTION 5

Neurological and Psychiatric Drugs



Psychiatrists prescribe these medications for mental health and seizure management. You must use them cautiously.



Lithium:

Doctors prescribe Lithium for bipolar disorder. It significantly reduces acetylcholine release at the nerve ending.



Monitor levels and symptoms closely.



Phenytoin:

Doctors use this drug to prevent severe epileptic seizures. It frequently increases generalized muscle fatigue.



Use with caution and regular monitoring.



Gabapentin:

Doctors prescribe this drug for nerve pain. Rare clinical case reports suggest it might worsen ocular and bulbar symptoms.



Watch for worsening of eye and throat symptoms.



CNS Depressants:

This class includes benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and sedatives. They increase general sedation and may dangerously worsen respiratory weakness. Patients require careful medical supervision when using them.



May worsen breathing weakness. Use only under strict medical supervision.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Never start, stop, or change any neurological or psychiatric medication without consulting your neurologist.



Your neurological health is precious. **Protect it with knowledge and caution.**



Stay informed. Work with your healthcare team. **Stay safe.**



Better choices today lead to a **stronger, healthier tomorrow.**



SECTION 6

Over-The-Counter Medicines



You must monitor your daily over-the-counter supplements carefully.



Magnesium:

High doses of magnesium pose a severe, hidden danger. Magnesium actively prevents your nerves from releasing acetylcholine messengers. You must avoid antacids and laxatives containing high magnesium levels.



Excess magnesium can worsen muscle weakness. Check labels and ask your pharmacist.



Pain Relievers:

Standard pain medications like aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen do not generally exacerbate Myasthenia Gravis. You can typically use them safely.



Generally safe when used as directed. Always follow label instructions.



SECTION 7

Surgical Anesthetics



You require highly specialized care during any surgical procedure.

Muscle Relaxants:

Anesthesiologists use neuromuscular blocking agents during general surgery. MG patients remain incredibly sensitive to these paralyzing drugs. Your surgical team must strictly adjust these dosages to prevent postoperative respiratory failure.



EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

You must know how to respond to a sudden symptom exacerbation safely.



1 Contact your healthcare provider immediately regarding any suspected medication.



2 Do not stop prescription medications abruptly without professional medical advice.



3 Carry a complete, updated list of your daily medications at all times.



4 Seek immediate emergency hospital care if severe breathing or swallowing difficulties develop.



Your awareness today can prevent a crisis tomorrow.
Stay informed. Stay prepared. Stay strong.

