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# Dementia Therapy, Memantine

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## CLASSIFICATION

Donepezil: Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; cholinergic

Galantamine: Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; cholinergic

Memantine: NMDA receptor antagonist

Rivastigmine: Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor; cholinergic

## ACTION

Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine:

- Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors increase the level of acetylcholine in neuronal synaptic clefts in the brain.
- Galantamine also increases the effect of acetylcholine at nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in vitro; clinical relevance unproven.
- Rivastigmine also inhibits butyrylcholinesterase; clinical relevance unknown.

Memantine: Blocks one of the glutamate receptor types, the NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptor, reducing neuronal damage caused by excessive glutamate.

## Keywords:

alzheimers disease  
dementia  
donepezil  
galantamine  
memantine  
rivastigmine

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