

# Patient Advice When Starting Stalevo

## What is Stalevo?

Stalevo is a new levodopa therapy for people with Parkinson's disease.

Dopamine is a naturally occurring substance in the brain that helps provide control of movement and activities such as walking and talking. People who have Parkinson's don't produce enough dopamine. The principal treatment for Parkinson's is a drug called levodopa. Levodopa is converted to dopamine in the brain, allowing people with Parkinson's to function better. However the majority of each dose of levodopa does not reach the brain as it is broken down in the bloodstream and gut.

Stalevo is a combination of levodopa with two other agents (carbidopa and entacapone), which prevent this breakdown. This increased availability of levodopa should lead to smoother and steadier levels of dopamine in the brain providing better symptom control for longer periods each day.

You may already be taking levodopa as either Sinemet or Madopar.

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<b>Sinemet contains:</b>	<b>levodopa and carbidopa</b>
<b>Madopar contains:</b>	<b>levodopa and benserazide</b>
<b>Stalevo contains:</b>	<b>levodopa, carbidopa and entacapone</b>

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Stalevo is available in 3 strengths:



Stalevo 50 (50 mg levodopa/ 12.5 mg carbidopa, 200 mg entacapone)



Stalevo 100 (100 mg levodopa, 25 mg carbidopa, 200 mg entacapone)



Stalevo 150 (150 mg levodopa, 37.5 mg carbidopa, 200 mg entacapone)

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## What can Stalevo do for me?

People who take Stalevo may have better symptom control for longer periods of time between doses, which may improve their daily activities. Stalevo may provide you with the following benefits:

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Clearer speech	More readable handwriting
Less trembling at rest	Less stiffness
Better posture	Ability to walk with less assistance
Greater ease of movement	

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## When should Stalevo therapy be considered?

Stalevo can be used instead of Sinemet or Madopar when:

1. Improved control of symptoms is required.
2. The benefits of levodopa aren't lasting as long as they used to.

## How effective is Stalevo?

Clinical studies evaluating Stalevo have shown that the majority of patients have significantly better control of symptoms for longer periods of time each day compared with other forms of levodopa. These studies have also shown that these initial improvements are maintained in the long term.

**If I start taking Stalevo, should I stop taking my existing levodopa tablets?**

**Since Stalevo contains levodopa, other levodopa therapies are generally NOT necessary.**

**(In certain circumstances, however, your Doctor may recommend a combination of the different levodopa tablets.)**

**Can Stalevo be taken with other Parkinson's drugs?**