

Be alert to the effects of medications, as it could increase the chance of a sudden, unanticipated fall. Patients taking any one or more of these medications, along with a diuretic, may be at increased risk for falls. A pharmacist may help determine the role of medications in a fall event.

| Medication Class | Medication Names | | Effects on Fall Risk |
|---|---|--|---|
| Analgesics, Opiates | Codeine Hydrocodone Oxycodone Morphine Hydromorphone Oxymorphone | Fentanyl Tramadol Methadone Buprenorphine Opium | Sedation Slows reaction time Impairs balance Delirium Bradycardia |
| Muscle relaxants | Baclofen | Dantrolene (Dantrium®, Ryanodex®) | Sedation Decreased muscle tone Gait changes |
| Antihistamines | Chlorpheniramine (Chlor-Trimeton®) Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) | Hydroxyzine (Vistaril®, Atarax®) Promethazine (Phenergan®) | Drowsiness Dizziness |
| Antipsychotics | Haloperidol (Haldol®) Fluphenazine Olanzapine (Zyprexa®) | Risperidone (Risperdal®) Quetiapine (Seroquel®) | Orthostatic hypotension Sedation Slows reaction time Impaired balance Increased risk of arrhythmias (QT-prolongation) |
| Anticonvulsants | Carbamazepine (Tegretol®) Phenytoin (Dilantin®) Phenobarbital Valproic acid (Depakote®/Depakene®) Gabapentin (Neurontin®) | <i>Limited data on associations with falls:</i> Lamotrigine (Lamictal®) Pregabalin (Lyrica®) Levetiracetam (Keppra®) Topiramate (Topamax®) | Sedation Slows reaction time Gait disturbances Ataxia |
| Benzodiazepines | Clonazepam (Klonopin®) Diazepam (Valium®) Lorazepam (Ativan®) | Midazolam (Versed®) Temazepam (Restoril®) | Drowsiness Slows reaction time Impairs balance |
| Non-benzodiazepine sedative-hypnotics | Eszopiclone (Lunesta®) Ramelteon (Rozerem®) | Zaleplon (Sonata®) Zolpidem (Ambien®) | Drowsiness Slows reaction time Impaired balance Sleep walking |
| Anti-Parkinson and Dementia agents | Donepezil (Aricept®) Galantamine (Razadyne®) Pramipexole (Mirapex®) Rivastigmine (Exelon®) | Ropinirole (Requip®) Selegiline (Emsam®, Zelapar®) | Bradycardia Delirium Orthostatic hypotension Syncope |
| Antidepressants | Amitriptyline (Elavil®) Clomipramine (Anafranil®) Doxepin (Silenor®) | Imipramine (Tofranil®) Mirtazapine (Remeron®) Nortriptyline Trazodone | Orthostatic hypotension Drowsiness Slows reaction time Impaired balance |
| Alpha-receptor blockers | Alfuzosin (Uroxatral®) Doxazosin (Cardura®) Prazosin (Minipress®) | Tamsulosin (Flomax®) Terazosin Clonidine | Orthostatic hypotension |
| Anti-hypertensives (ACE-Inhibitors, ARBs) | Lisinopril (Zestril®) Ramipril (Altace®) Enalapril (Vasotec®) Captopril Fosinopril Quinapril (Accupril®) Candesartan (Atacand®) | Irbesartan (Avapro®) Losartan (Cozaar®) Olmesartan (Benicar®) Telmisartan (Micardis®) Isosorbide mononitrate (ImDur®) Isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil®) | Hypotension Orthostatic hypotension Hyponatremia → altered mental status |
| Anti-hypertensives (Beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers) | Atenolol (Tenormin®) Bisoprolol (Zebeta®) Carvedilol (Coreg®) Metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol XL®) Propranolol (Inderal®) | Amlodipine (Norvasc®) Felodipine Nifedipine (Procardia®) Diltiazem (Cardizem®, Cartia XT®) Verapamil (Calan®, Verelan®) | Bradycardia Hypotension Orthostatic hypotension Hyponatremia → altered mental status Vasovagal syndrome |
| Anti-arrhythmics | Amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®) Digoxin (Digitek®, Lanoxin®) | Flecainide Sotalol (Betapace®) | Bradycardia Other arrhythmias |