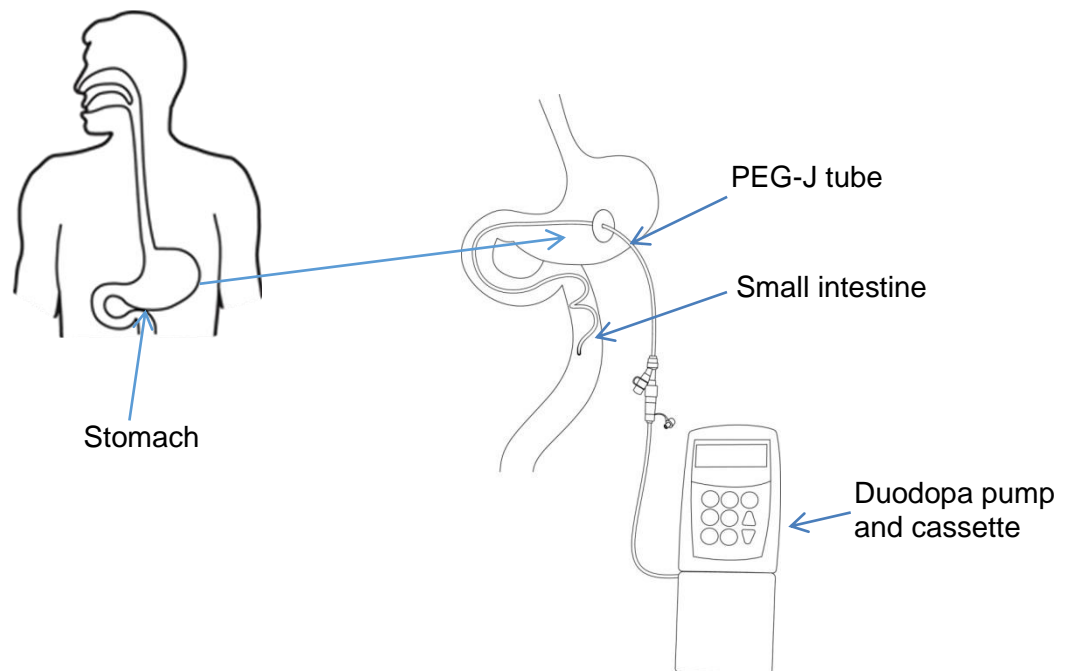


Duodopa

What is duodopa?

Duodopa is a medication for patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. It may be a treatment option if you have severe and disabling motor symptoms (such as slowness, stiffness or wiggles) that cannot be well controlled with other medications for Parkinson's disease.

Duodopa is a combination of levodopa and carbidopa. It comes in a gel that is stored in a cassette attached to a pump worn outside of your body. The pump delivers the duodopa through a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG-J) tube into your small intestine.



Discuss your treatment options with your family doctor or neurologist. Not all treatments are right for everyone with Parkinson's disease.

Duodopa is not a cure. The goal of therapy is to decrease your motor symptoms and improve the quality of your life.

How do I know if duodopa is right for me?

In order to receive duodopa, you need a referral to a Movement Disorder Clinic.

The movement disorder specialist will help you decide if duodopa is right for you.

What are the next steps?



If you and your specialist decide that duodopa may be beneficial to you:

- You will need to have a procedure called an endoscopy. A percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG –J) tube is inserted through a hole in your abdominal wall. You will be admitted into the hospital for a day.
 - About 4 weeks later, you will need to return to the Movement Disorder Clinic. You will need to visit the clinic each day for 3 days in a row. Expect to be at the clinic for a full day each day.
 - At the 1st appointment, you will start the duodopa. The duodopa is stored in a cassette attached to a pump. The PEG-J tube will be attached to the portable pump worn on the outside of your body. You usually wear the pump for 16 hours a day.
 - We will review how to operate the pump and answer any questions you have. We will assess your response to the duodopa and make any changes if needed. You will go home with the pump and return the next day.
 - On the 2nd and 3rd day during your visits at the clinic, we will continue to assess your response to the duodopa and make any changes as needed.
 - You will need to attend several follow-up appointments at the Movement Disorder Clinic.
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What you need to know

You will need to wear a pump on the outside of your body.

- You will need to change the duodopa cassette once (sometimes 2 times) each day.
- The cassette weighs about 3 lbs and is about 4 inches by 3½ inches in size and is connected to the pump for about 14 to 16 hours.
- You will need to monitor the tube connected to the stomach daily for signs of infection, swelling or both.
- Even with the pump, some patients will need to take additional medications during the bedtime hours.
- You will need to attend several appointments over the next few months at the Movement Disorder Clinic to have your duodopa pump reviewed by your nurse and specialist.
- Many patients and family members who have been on duodopa comment:
 - the pump needs a lot of care
 - a supportive and consistent caregiver is key to the success of the therapy

More information

For more information on patient stories using duodopa, see the website links below:

www.lanaslezic.com/the-little-things/

www.uhn.ca/corporate/News/Pages/parkinson_awareness.aspx

Also, go to the Hamilton Health Sciences patient education library at www.hhsc.ca/pedl and search for “duodopa peg J”.

