

# Doupa Therapy Precautions for Hospitalizations

Doupa therapy is an enteral gel suspension of the Parkinson’s disease medication carbidopa/levodopa. The gel suspension of carbidopa/levodopa 4.63mg/20mg per mL is administered by a pump connected to the body using a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy with jejunal tube (PEG-J tube).

## There are 3 Components to Duopa Therapy

1. **PEG -J Tube:** This is how the medication goes into your body, directly to the intestine. To clean the tubing and prevent blockages, it should be flushed with a syringe before and after every pump use. Routine care will vary depending on the type of PEG-J tubing used.
2. **Cassette:** The cassette contains the gel carbidopa-levodopa. A new cassette must be used daily. A cassette can be used for up to 16 hours a day. Discard any leftover medication that is not used.
  - Each cassette contains 2000 mg of levodopa. Some people may need two cassettes in a day.
  - Cassettes must be stored in the refrigerator.
  - Cassettes, along with other supplies, are shipped directly from a patient-specific specialty pharmacy
3. **Duopa Pump:** The pump is specifically programmed for your individual needs. Pump settings include:
  - **Morning dose:** A large amount of medication is given in the morning to get to an ideal “on” state, before switching to a lower continuous dose the rest of the day.
  - **Continuous dose:** Medication is infused continuously at the same hourly rate to help you maintain the ideal “on” state and help prevent bothersome motor fluctuations.
  - **Extra dose:** As-needed doses may be available to control unexpected “off” time.

## What You Need to Know about Duopa Therapy

### What is it?

Doupa therapy is a form of carbidopa/levodopa delivered in gel form, not a pill. Before you can start Doupa, you need surgery to make a small hole (called a “stoma”) in your stomach wall to place a tube in your intestine. A pump then delivers Doupa directly to your intestine through this tube.

### Who is it for?

Doupa therapy is approved for use in people with advanced Parkinson’s disease who respond well to levodopa. You might be a good candidate for Doupa therapy if you experience daily motor fluctuations with 3+ hours of “off” time, and you have tried and failed to control the motor fluctuations with another class of medication, such as dopamine agonists or MAO-B inhibitors.



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**Things to consider:**

Gel carbidopa/levodopa has the same potential side effects as oral carbidopa/levodopa. Side effects include, but are not limited to, nausea, orthostatic hypotension, dyskinesia, dry mouth, constipation, confusion, and hallucinations. Possible adverse events include complications of tube insertion, nausea, depression, swelling of the legs and feet, hypertension, upper respiratory tract infection, or mouth and throat pain.

**Duopa Therapy Precautions**

Patients using Duopa therapy are assigned a case manager through Abbvie’s DuoConnect. Case managers are available 24/7 at 1.844.DUO.4YOU (386.4968) to answer questions, provide education and support, and help troubleshoot problems.

- Duopa therapy is FDA-approved for daily use of up to 16-hours.
- If a patient is disconnected from the Duopa pump for more than 2 hours, the patient will likely need to be prescribed an oral form of carbidopa/levodopa.
- Consult with the patient’s neurologist for instructions on how to convert the patient’s enteral suspension of carbidopa/levodopa to oral tablets.
- Do not expose the pump to therapeutic levels of ionizing radiation, ultrasound, MRI, or ECG. Call DuoConnect for instructions before initiating any imaging.
- The Duopa pump is not waterproof. Please disconnect the pump before bathing, swimming, etc.
- Patients using Duopa may be on a combined Parkinson’s medication regimen, using another medication such as a dopamine agonist or MAO-B inhibitor.

See Abbvie’s Duopa Professional portal, [www.duopapro.com](http://www.duopapro.com), for prescribing information, indication, and important safety information.

**Medical professionals please note:**

Carbidopa/levodopa therapy should not be stopped abruptly. Doing so may cause a life-threatening condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS).

**SOURCE:**

The Parkinson’s Aware in Care campaign aims to help people with Parkinson’s get the best care possible during a hospital stay. For more information, please visit [www.Parkinson.org/awareincare](http://www.Parkinson.org/awareincare) or call 1.800.4PD.INFO (473.4636).