

**TITLE 1:** "Ask the Doctors"

**TITLE 2:**

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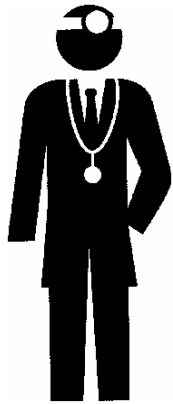
**KEYWORDS:**

- Pharmaceutical treatment

**ABSTRACT OVERVIEW:** One reader asks questions about gastrointestinal discomfort and medications to treat RLS.

**COPY OF ARTICLE:**

**Q.** *I have been treated for RLS with clonazepam, carbidopa/levodopa, and pergolide. Each has caused pains in my abdomen and other gastrointestinal discomfort. Is there a medication that will relieve my RLS without these gastrointestinal side effects?*



**A.** Most medications that combat nausea that are commercially available in the United States will also make RLS worse. Domperidone, 10 mg, can be used with each pill of carbidopa/levodopa (Sinemet) or pergolide (Permax) and is available in Canada. Your physician can obtain this drug for you. In addition to these dopaminergic medications and clonazepam, other medications can be tried for RLS, although there is no guarantee that gastrointestinal side effects will be avoided. These include various opiates and nonopioid pain relievers such as tramadol (Ultram); antiseizure drugs such as carbamazepine (Tegretol) and gabapentin (Neurontin); the antihypertensive, clonidine (Catapres); and baclofen (Lioresal). Some of these medications are less likely to cause gastrointestinal side effects than are others.

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