

TITLE 1: "Ask the Doctor"

TITLE 2:

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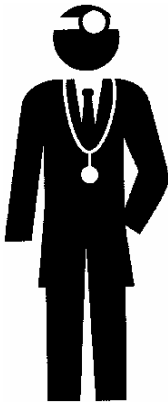
KEYWORDS:

- Brain
- Pharmaceutical treatment

ABSTRACT OVERVIEW: One reader asks about memory loss and different drugs used to treat RLS.

COPY OF ARTICLE:

Q. I have had PLMS for about 12 years. For most of this time I used Klonopin, which gradually destroyed my short-term memory. Several physicians told me that my memory would return once I changed drugs. A year ago I switched to Sinemet. Since then, my short-term memory has gotten even worse. Then a neurologist confirmed that both drugs can cause short-term memory loss and can be chemically addictive. This, sadly, has been the case with me. If I changed to pergolide or gabapentin or another drug, would I avoid the short-term memory loss?



A. Many medications can impair some types of thinking processes, but usually this is reversible when the drug is discontinued. Drugs such as Klonopin can certainly do so, but it is much less common with Sinemet. It is not possible to predict in advance the effects of any medication on the mind for a specific patient; one really has to try the new drug and then judge the effects. If your short-term memory continues to worsen, you might ask your doctor to be certain there are no other causes unrelated to medications. Sinemet is not an addiction-producing medication but can cause the phenomenon of daytime

augmentation with worsening of restless legs during the day following a nighttime dose.

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