

**TITLE 1:** “Ask the Doctor”

**TITLE 2:**

**DATE:** Fall 2005

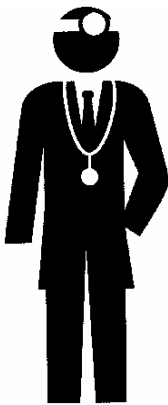
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**KEYWORDS:**

- Symptoms
- Pharmaceutical treatment

**ABSTRACT OVERVIEW:** One reader asks about the connection between Mirapex and dopamine agonists and their connection to compulsive behaviors.

**COPY OF ARTICLE:**



**Q:** I am looking for more information about a possible connection between the drug Mirapex and the development of an addiction to gambling, when the drug is used for Parkinson’s disease treatment. I’m curious to know if other patients with RLS have had any sudden gambling problems, even though they would receive a much lower dose of Mirapex than a Parkinson’s patient.

**A:** I have treated more than 600 patients with RLS and have not encountered any who have developed sudden gambling or other obsessive behaviors associated with use of dopamine agonists. One might suspect that any association that might occur would be only with higher doses of medications more similar to those used in Parkinson’s disease.

*David Rye, MD, PhD*

**A:** In addition, in the 50 or so cases of obsessive behavior due to dopamine agonists reported in the medical literature so far, all have occurred in Parkinson’s disease patients and none in RLS patients.

*Mark J. Buchfuhrer, MD, FRCP(C), FCCP, NightWalkers Medical Editor*