

Northera approved for rare blood pressure condition

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(HealthDay)—Northera (droxidopa) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat a rare, chronic condition characterized by a sudden drop in blood pressure when a person stands.

Neurogenic orthostatic hypotension (NOH) is most often associated with Parkinson's disease and other [neurologic disorders](#). Symptoms may include dizziness, lightheadedness, blurred vision, fatigue and fainting, the FDA said in a news release.

Granted accelerated approval to treat a rare condition, the drug will have a boxed label warning that it could cause an unhealthy rise in [blood pressure](#) while a person is lying down. This potential side effect could lead to a stroke, the agency said, warning that Northera users should be monitored carefully.

Other less serious side effects could include headache, dizziness, nausea, [high blood pressure](#) and fatigue, the FDA said.

Northera is produced by Chelsea Therapeutics, based in Charlotte, N.C.

More information: The FDA has more about [this approval](#).

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