

Dopamine agonists tied to higher risk for psychiatric events

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(HealthDay)—Patients with primary restless leg syndrome who begin

dopamine agonist (DA) therapy may be at increased risk for adverse psychiatric events, according to a study published in the September issue of the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*.

Cheryl Hankin, Ph.D., from BioMedEcon in Moss Beach, California, and colleagues evaluated the association between DA initiation and subsequent new-onset psychiatric adverse events among newly diagnosed restless leg syndrome patients (889 DA+ and DA– matched pairs) who had no history of psychiatric disorder or DA use. Patients were identified through U.S. employer-sponsored plans and Medicare Advantage (July 2008 to December 2014) with two or more years of claims data preceding their first restless leg syndrome diagnosis ("pre-index period").

The researchers found that compared with their DA– counterparts, DA+ patients were nearly two times more likely to develop any psychiatric adverse events (odds ratio, 1.71). DA+ patients were also more likely to develop a severe (odds ratio, 1.68), moderately severe (odds ratio, 1.63), or mild (odds ratio, 1.72) psychiatric adverse event.

"It may be advisable for [health care providers](#) to assess for a range of psychiatric adverse events in patients with restless leg [syndrome](#) receiving DAs," the authors write.

Several authors reported financial ties to [pharmaceutical companies](#), including Arbor Pharmaceuticals, which funded the study.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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