Step 1. Calculate total daily levodopa equivalent dose (LED) [NB2]

Antiparkinson drug [NB3]	Total daily dose (mg)	Conversion factor [NB4]	LED (mg)
levodopa+benserazide/carbidopa		x 1	
modified-release levodopa+benserazide/carbidopa		x 0.75	
pramipexole		x 100	
modified-release pramipexole		x 100	
		Total daily LED [NB5] =	

Step 2. Convert total daily LED to target rotigotine dose

Total daily LED (mg) 30

=mg rotigotine/24 hours

Round down to the nearest rotigotine patch / combination of patches—this is the target dose [NB6].

Maximum daily dose of rotigotine is 16 mg/24 hours.

NB1: Seek expert advice if possible before changing the route of antiparkinson therapy, particularly for patients with fragile disease control.

NB2: A levodopa equivalent dose (LED) is the dose of drug that produces the same symptom control as 100 mg immediate-release levodopa combined with a dopa-decarboxylase inhibitor.

NB3: Seek expert advice if the patient is taking an antiparkinson drug that is not listed (eg amantadine, entacapone, rasagiline, ropinirole, selegiline).

NB4: Conversion factors are only a guide, as comprehensive dose equivalence studies are lacking.

NB5: If total daily LED is more than 480 mg, seek expert advice. The patient may need apomorphine subcutaneously or levodopa+carbidopa intestinal gel.

NB6: Unless the patient has fragile disease control, consider starting rotigotine at a lower patch strength than the target dose, then titrate as tolerated to the effective dose.

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