

Drugs to avoid or use with caution in myasthenia gravis [NB1]

Avoid	
D-penicillamine	
botulinum toxin type A	
interferon alfa	
Use with caution	
neuromuscular blocking drugs:	Intravenous lignocaine and large doses of other local anaesthetics (even given subcutaneously) can potentiate the effect of neuromuscula blocking drugs. However, in general, local anaesthesia is safe in myasthenia gravis
nondepolarising	Avoid if possible, or use with extreme caution (cause highly variable potentiation of neuromuscular blockade)
	Avoid long-acting agents (eg pancuronium)
	Reduce doses, according to disease severity and concurrent use of anticholinesterase inhibitors
	Closely monitor neuromuscular function and consider a test dose
depolarising	Avoid if possible, due to variable response
	A loss of acetylcholine receptors in myasthenia gravis may confer a degree of resistance to depolarising drugs
	In contrast, cholinesterase inhibitors and vancomycin may potentiate the action of suxamethonium
halogenated inhalation anaesthetics	Myasthenic patients may be more sensitive to the relaxant effect of inhaled anaesthetics. Monitor neuromuscular function closely
antibiotics:	
aminoglycosides	Use an alternative drug when possible. Tobramycin is probably the least toxic
fluoroquinolones	Use an alternative drug when possible
macrolides	Use an alternative drug when possible
quinine	Use an alternative drug when possible
iodinated radiographic contrast media	Use noncontrast imaging when possible and discuss with radiologist

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gravis symptoms. Rather than avoiding these drugs completely, consider their harms versus benefits before deciding whether to use them.