

Table e-2. Drugs to avoid or use with caution in MG*

Many drugs are associated with worsening of MG. However, reported associations do not necessarily mean these medications should never be prescribed in MG. Reports are often rare or represent a coincidental association. Clinical judgment and the risk-to-benefit ratio of the drug should be considered when it is deemed important for a patient's treatment. Listed below are medications that have the strongest evidence for worsening MG.

- Telithromycin: antibiotic for community acquired pneumonia. The US FDA has designated a "black box" warning for this drug in MG. Should not be used in MG.
- Fluoroquinolones (e.g., ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin and levofloxacin): commonly prescribed broad-spectrum antibiotics that are associated with worsening MG. The US FDA has designated a "black box" warning for these agents in MG. Use cautiously, if at all.
- Botulinum toxin: avoid.
- D-penicillamine: used for Wilson disease and rarely for rheumatoid arthritis. Strongly associated with causing MG. Avoid
- Quinine: occasionally used for leg cramps. Use prohibited except in malaria in US.
- Magnesium: potentially dangerous if given intravenously, i.e. for eclampsia during late pregnancy or for hypomagnesemia. Use only if absolutely necessary and observe for worsening.
- Macrolide antibiotics (e.g., erythromycin, azithromycin, clarithromycin): commonly prescribed antibiotics for gram-positive bacterial infections. May worsen MG. Use cautiously, if at all.
- Aminoglycoside antibiotics (e.g., gentamycin, neomycin, tobramycin): used for gram-negative bacterial infections. May worsen MG. Use cautiously if no alternative treatment available.
- Corticosteroids: A standard treatment for MG, but may cause transient worsening within the first two weeks. Monitor carefully for this possibility (see Table 1).
- Procainamide: used for irregular heart rhythm. May worsen MG. Use with caution.
- Desferrioxamine: Chelating agent used for hemochromatosis. May worsen MG.
- Beta-blockers: commonly prescribed for hypertension, heart disease and migraine but potentially dangerous in MG. May worsen MG. Use cautiously.

- Statins (e.g., atorvastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin): used to reduce serum cholesterol. May worsen or precipitate MG. Use cautiously if indicated and at lowest dose needed.
- Iodinated radiologic contrast agents: older reports document increased MG weakness, but modern contrast agents appear safer. Use cautiously and observe for worsening.

*see also <http://www.myasthenia.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zmLaFItarOQ%3d&tabid=318>