

Oral Health of Older Adults

Primary Care



Xerostomia (Dry Mouth)

Managing the oral side effects from medications is important to maintaining good oral health of frail older adults. Medication-induced xerostomia is a common side effect of many medications:

Medications That Impact Oral Health

Classification	Generic Name	Brand Name	Classification	Generic Name	Brand Name	
Anorexiant	phentemine	Adipex-P	Antiinflammatory Analgesic	ibuprofen	Motrin	
	phendimetrazine	Fastin Ionamin Anorex SR Bontril PDM		naproxen	Naprosyn	
Antianxiety	mazindol	Mazanor	Antinauseant	piroxicam	Feldene	
	hydroxyzine	Atarax		dyphenhydramine	Dramamine	
	lorazepam	Ativan		meclizine	Antivert	
	prazepam	Centrax	Antiparkinsonian	biperiden	Akineton	
	halazepam	Paxipam		trihexyphenidyl	Artane	
Anticholinergic / Antispasmodic	oxazepam	Serax	Anti-Psychotic	benztropine mesylate	Cogentin	
	diazepam	Valium		clozapine	Clozaril	
	atropine	Atropisol		lithium	Eskalith	
Anticonvulsant	hyoscyamine	Anaspaz	Bronchodilator	haloperidal	Haldol	
	oxybutynin	Diropan		chlorpromazine	Thorazine	
	felbamate	Felbatol		ipratropium	Atrovent	
Antidepressant	lamotrigine	Lamictal	Decongestant	albuterol	Ventolin	
	carbamazepine	Tegretol		pseudoephedrine	Sudafed	
	clomipramine	Anafranil	Diuretic	chlorothiazide	Diuril	
	amitriptyline	Elavil		furosemide	Lasix	
	fluoxetine	Prozac		cyclobenzaprine	Flexeril	
Antidiarrheal	doxepin	Sinequan	Muscle Relaxant	orphenadrine	Norflex	
	loperamide	Immodium AD		merperidine	Demerol	
Antihistamine	diphenoxylate with atropine	Lomotil	Narcotic Analgesic	morphine	MS Contin	
	diphenhydramine	Benadryl		flurazepam	Dalmane	
	loratadine	Claritin		triazolam	Halcion	
Antihypertensive	terfenadine	Seldane	Sedative	temazepam	Restoril	
	apoptril	Capoten				
	prazosin	Minipress				
	reserpine	Serpasil				
Other common oral adverse side effects of medications		Dental caries Alterations in taste Difficulty with chewing	Oral ulcerations Atrophic mucosa Hair tongue	Burning mouth / tongue Difficulty with speech Difficulty with swallowing	Opportunistic infection Gingival enlargement Mucositis /	Bleeding Stomatitis

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Source: Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. (2007).

Oral Health: Nursing Assessment and Interventions. Toronto, ON: Author. www.rnao.org

