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On Drugs and Therapeutics

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IN BRIEF

Transdermal Rotigotine (*Neupro*)

A patch formulation of the non-ergot dopamine agonist rotigotine (*Neupro* – UCB) has returned to the US market after a 4-year absence. Originally approved by the FDA in 2007 for treatment of early Parkinson's disease,¹ it was withdrawn in 2008 because of crystallization of the drug in the patch, which could have led to under-dosing. The new patch has somewhat broader indications than the old one; it is approved for use in any stage of Parkinson's disease (PD) and also for moderate-to-severe restless legs syndrome (RLS).

1. Transdermal rotigotine (*Neupro*) for Parkinson's disease. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2007; 49:69.

Table 1. Non-Ergot Dopamine Agonists for PD and RLS

Drug	Usual Dosage for PD	Usual Dosage for RLS	Cost ¹
Patch			
Rotigotine <i>Neupro</i> (UCB)	2-8 mg/24 hrs patch once/d	1-3 mg/24 hrs patch once/d	\$127.50 ²
Oral			
Pramipexole – generic <i>Mirapex</i> (Boehringer Ingelheim) extended-release	0.5-1.5 mg tid	0.125-0.5 mg ³	25.89 356.62
<i>Mirapex ER</i>	1.5-4.5 mg once/d	not approved	337.43
Ropinirole – generic <i>Requip</i> (GSK) extended-release	3-8 mg tid	0.25-4 mg ³	42.78 277.83
generic <i>Requip XL</i>	8-24 mg once/d	not approved	193.87 228.18

1. Cost of 30 days' treatment at the lowest usual dose for treatment of PD, according to PricePointRx™. Reprinted with permission by FDB. All rights reserved. ©2012. <http://www.firstdatabank.com/support/drug-pricing-policy.aspx>. Accessed August 13, 2012. Actual retail prices may be higher.

2. Thirty 1, 2 or 3 mg/24 hour patches cost \$127.50. Thirty 4, 6, 8 mg/24 hour patches cost \$375.

3. Once daily 2-3 hours before bedtime.

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