

MDS Alert

Clip 'N' Save: Check For Meds That Can Cause Or Worsen Incontinence

Medication	Effect
Alpha-receptor agonists (pseudoephedrine)	Urethral constriction and urinary retention (males)
Alpha-receptor antagonists (Minipress, Hytrin, Cardura)	Urethral relaxation and stress UI (females)
ACE inhibitors	Cough leading to stress incontinence
Anticholinergics (H1 antihistamines, antiparkinsonian agents)	Urinary retention, overflow incontinence, fecal impaction
Antidepressants, tricyclic	Anticholinergic effect, alpha-receptor antagonist effect
Beta-receptor antagonists (Inderal, Lopressor, Tenormin, etc.)	Urinary retention
Calcium channel blockers	Urinary retention, fecal impaction
Diuretics	Polyuria, frequency, urgency
Methylxanthines (caffeine, theophylline)	Polyuria, bladder irritation
Neuroleptics (Thorazine, Mellaril, etc.)	Anticholinergic effect, sedation
Opioids	Urinary retention, fecal impaction, sedation, delirium
Sedative-hypnotics	Sedation, delirium, muscle relaxation

Source: Diane Newman, MSN, RNC, CRNP, FAAN, "Current Management of Incontinence in Long Term Care" American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators conference, Chicago (March 2005)