



PARKINSON'S DISEASE

# SPOTLIGHT ON DYSKINESIA AND OFF: FEELING GOOD EVERY DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020



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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



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## PRESENTATION



**Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD**  
*Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer*  
American Parkinson Disease Association



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## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

**Salary & Grant Support:** APDA and NYULMC

**Honoraria:** none

**Speaker's Bureau:** none

**Equity & Consulting Agreements:** none

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## OUTLINE

- A. **Levodopa** treatment
- B. What are **motor fluctuations**?
- C. What are **levodopa-induced dyskinesias**?
- D. Current and future **solutions**

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## WHAT IS PARKINSON'S DISEASE?

**Dopamine** is a brain chemical that is needed for normal movement

**Substantia nigra** is the part of the brain that produces dopamine

Slow degeneration of nerve cells in the substantia nigra and other brain areas results in **PARKINSON'S DISEASE**



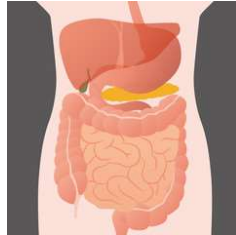
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## LEVODOPA



Carbidopa/  
Levodopa is  
ingested by  
**mouth**



is absorbed in  
the **small  
intestine**



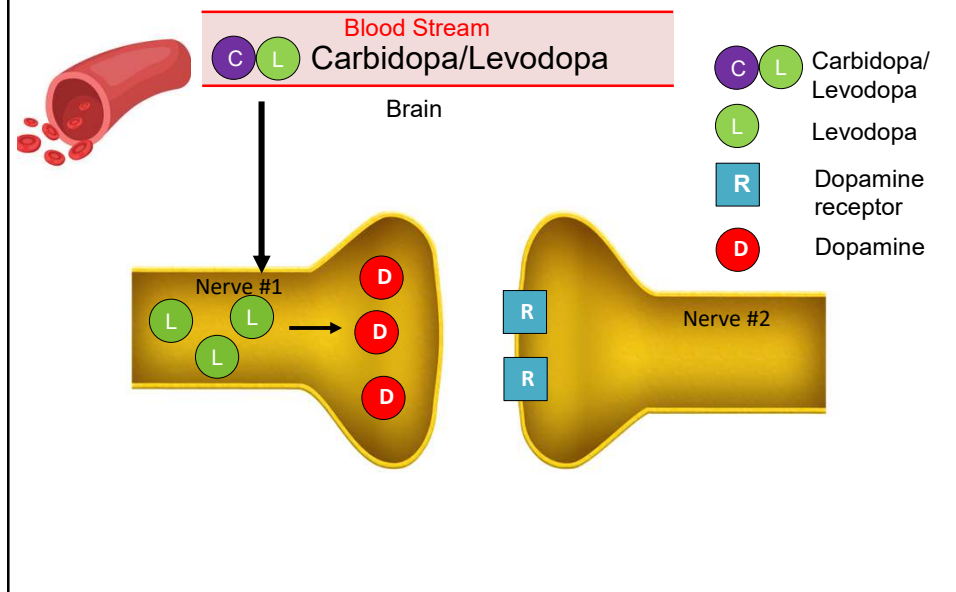
enters the  
**blood stream**



and crosses  
the blood brain  
barrier into the  
**brain**

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## LEVODOPA IS CONVERTED TO DOPAMINE IN THE BRAIN



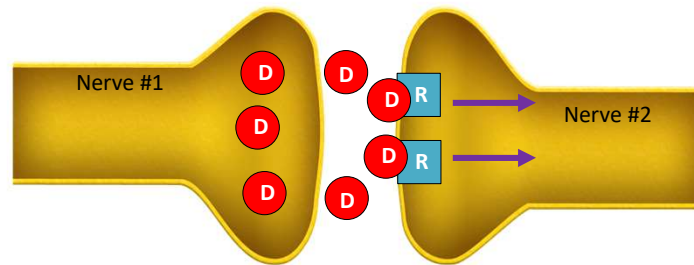
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## LEVODOPA IS CONVERTED TO DOPAMINE IN THE BRAIN

Dopamine enters the space between the neurons, binds with the dopamine receptor and allows for communication between neurons

**R** Dopamine receptor  
**D** Dopamine

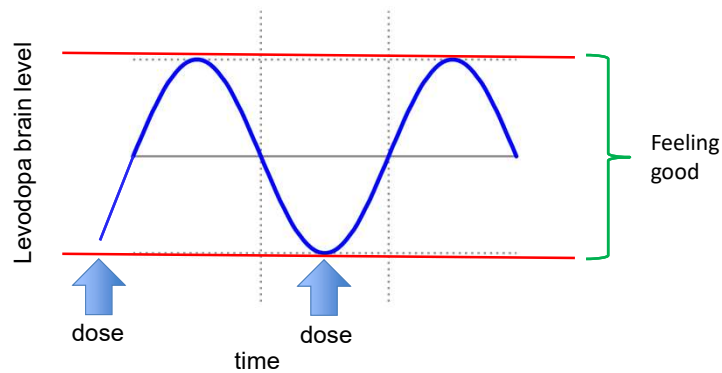


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## MOTOR FLUCTUATIONS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

With each Levodopa dose, the levels of Levodopa in the brain rise and then fall.

Early on, these changes don't matter.

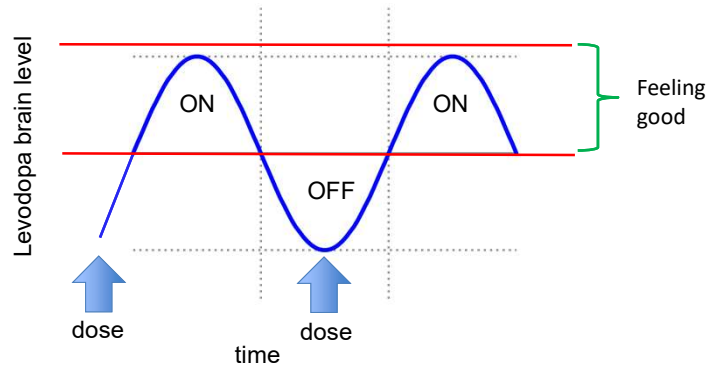


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## MOTOR FLUCTUATIONS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE

As the disease progresses, there is a narrower range of levodopa brain levels that leads to a good clinical response.



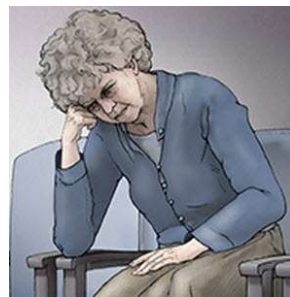
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## OFF TIME



### Motor symptoms

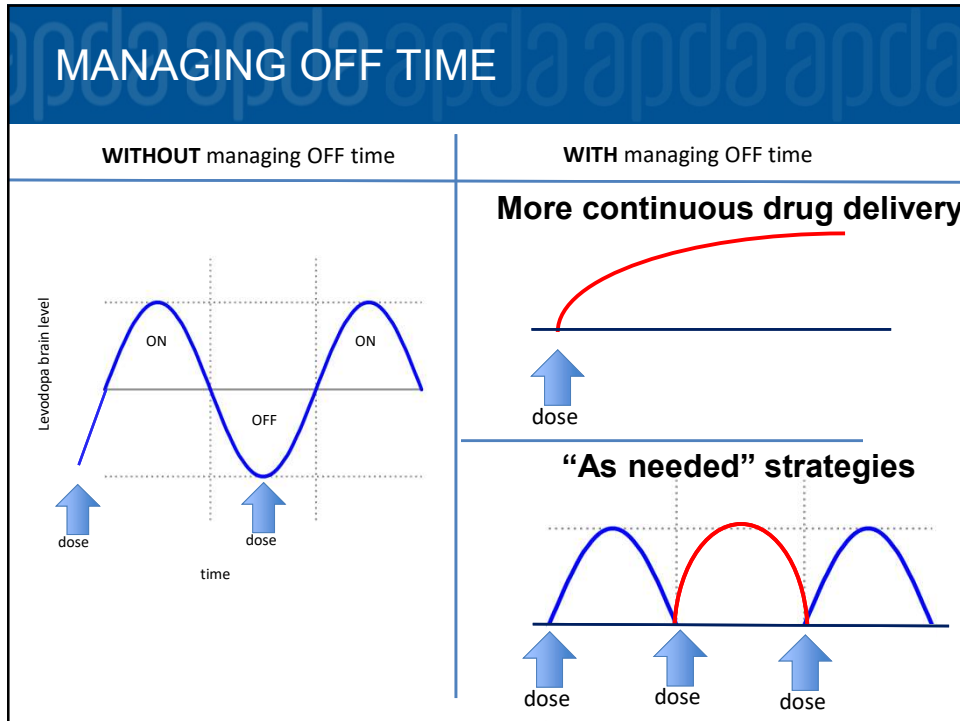
- Slowness
- Stiffness
- Difficulty walking
- Tremor



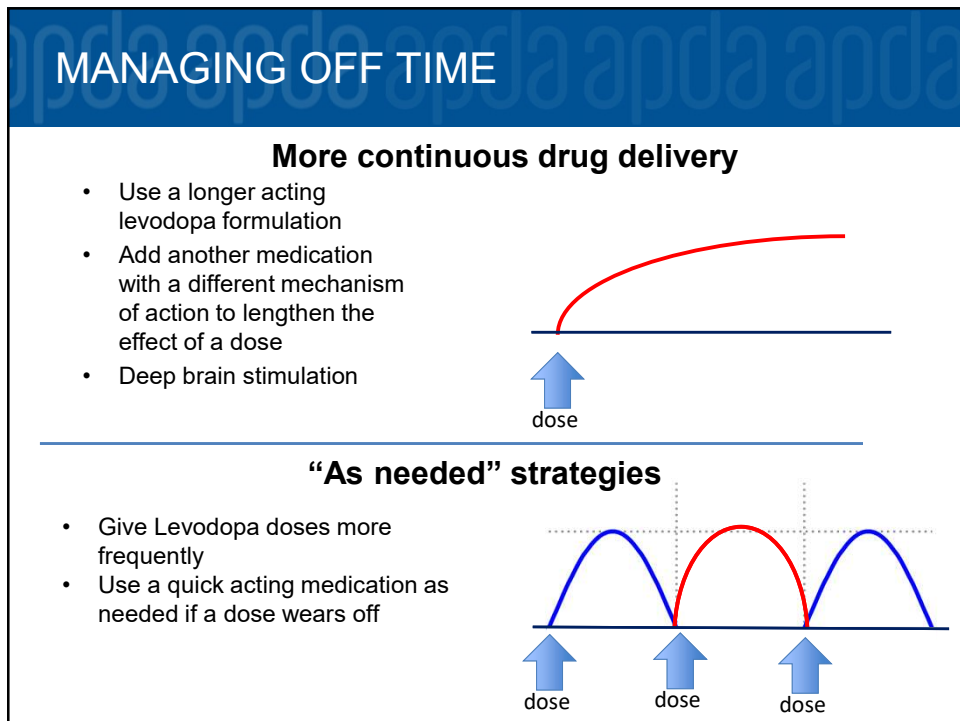
### Non-motor symptoms

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Pain

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## LEVODOPA FORMULATIONS

Drug	Formulation	Brand Name	Continuous or As Needed
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Immediate release (IR)	Sinemet®	
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Extended release (ER)	[N/A - generic only]	Continuous
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Extended release capsules (ER)	Rytary®	Continuous
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Intestinal gel	Duopa®	Continuous
Carbidopa / Levodopa	Orally disintegrating	Parcopa®	As Needed
Levodopa	Inhalation powder	Inbrija™	As Needed

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## LEVODOPA-INDUCED DYSKINESIAS

Levodopa-induced dyskinesias (LIDs) are **movements** that are:

- Involuntary
- Uncontrolled
- Purposeless

....and are a **side effect of Levodopa**

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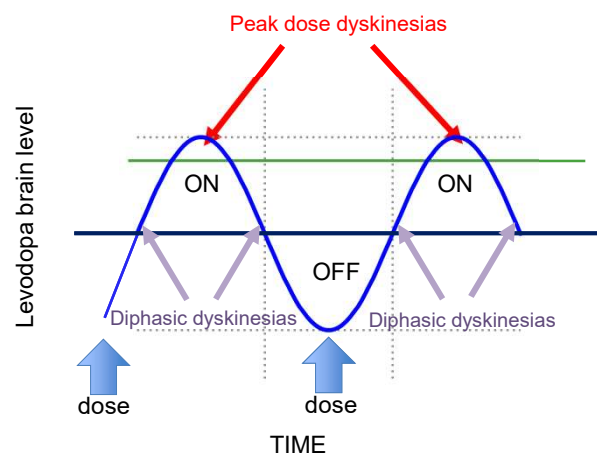
## LEVODOPA-INDUCED DYSKINESIAS

In order to get LIDs, you need:

- Intermittent exposure to Levodopa  
AND
- Progressive loss of dopamine neurons

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## TYPES OF LEVODOPA-INDUCED DYSKINESIAS



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## LEVODOPA-INDUCED DYSKINESIAS

- Typically affect the more parkinsonian side first
- Affect various parts of the body including neck, face, limbs, shoulders, torso
- Typically start in mild form and become more noticeable over time
- Can interfere with walking, daily activities, and social life
- Stress and excitement can exacerbate LIDs
- Can contribute to weight loss associated with PD

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## LEVODOPA-INDUCED DYSKINESIAS

- About 50% of persons with PD develop LIDs after 5-years of Levodopa therapy
- Unlike tremor, LIDs are not regular and rhythmic. Some people may have a hard time distinguishing between tremor and dyskinesias
- If a patient mistakes LIDs for tremor, the doctor may increase Levodopa and make LIDs inadvertently worse
- Some people may not be aware that they have LIDs, whereas others may be very bothered by them
- If a person is not bothered by the LIDs, they do not need to be treated

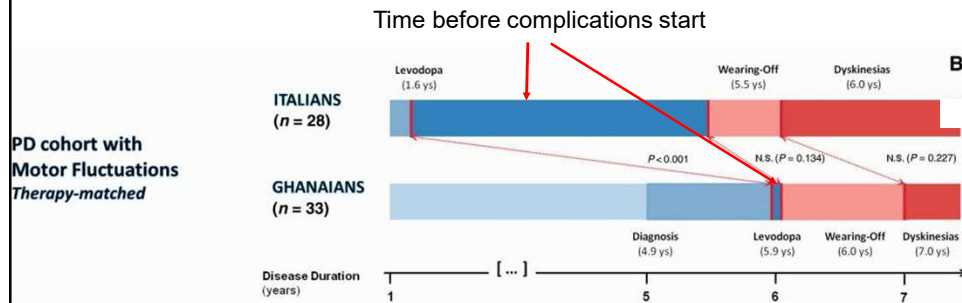
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## CAN DYSKINESIAS BE PREVENTED?

**Q:** Does delaying Levodopa treatment affect LIDs?

**A:** No. The clock to LIDs starts ticking when PD starts, not when Levodopa is started



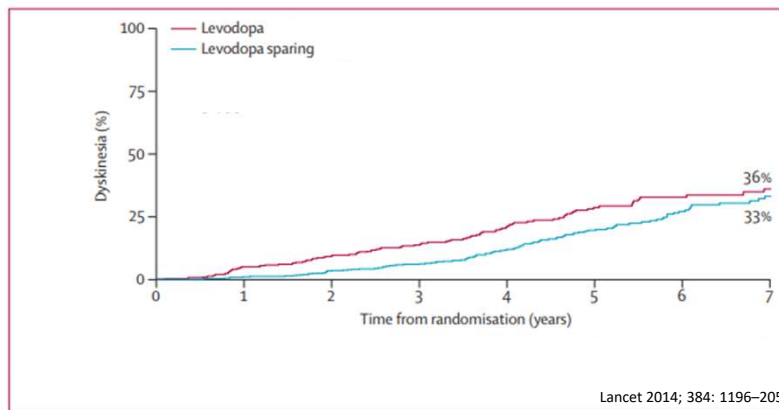
Brain. 2014 Oct; 137(10): 2731–2742.

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## CAN DYSKINESIAS BE PREVENTED?

**Q:** Does avoiding Levodopa when PD is first diagnosed affect subsequent emergence of LIDs?

**A:** No



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## CAN DYSKINESIAS BE PREVENTED?

**Q:** Does introduction of Levodopa in a more continuous manner (as opposed to a pulsatile manner) affect development of LIDs?

**A:** Not yet known. There has been no clinical trial of LIDs in those who receive long-acting vs short-acting Levodopa **as the first treatment.**

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## TREATMENT OF LEVODOPA INDUCED DYSKINESIAS

Treatments include:

- Change levodopa dosage and/or timing
- Convert to a long-acting levodopa formulation
- Add an amantadine formulation
- Deep brain stimulation


Physicians consider multiple factors including whether the LIDs are peak dose or diphasic when deciding on treatment

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## CONVERT TO LONG-ACTING LEVODOPA?

The “ADVANCE-PD” clinical trial examined the effect of **extended release** capsules

Drug	Formulation	ON Time*		
		BASELINE	END OF STUDY	DIFFERENCE
Sinemet	Immediate release	10.1 hours	10.91 hours	+0.8 hours
Rytary 	Capsule contains Immediate Release <b>AND</b> Extended Release beads	9.96 hours	11.84 hours	<b>+1.88 hours</b>

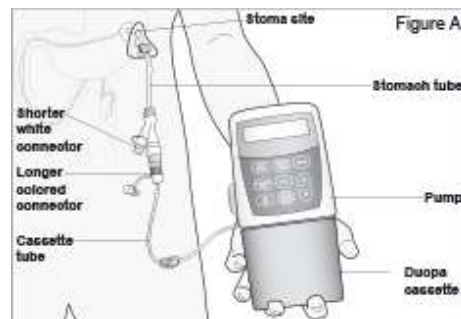
ON Time\* here refers only to ON time *without* troublesome dyskinesias

Lancet 2013; 12(4): 346-356

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## CONVERT TO LONG-ACTING LEVODOPA?

Levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel (LCIG)



<https://www.pdr.net/full-prescribing-information?druglabelid=3668>

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## CONVERT TO LONG-ACTING LEVODOPA?

Patients treated with Levodopa Carbidopa Intestinal gel (LCIG) had less time with troublesome dyskinesias and more ON time without troublesome dyskinesias than those treated with Carbidopa/Levodopa immediate release

Mov Disorder 2016 Apr; 31(4): 530–537.

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## AMANTADINE

Amantadine:

- has been used to treat LIDs for decades
- reduced LIDs in clinical trials
- has anti-parkinsonian effects, so can help the motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease as well

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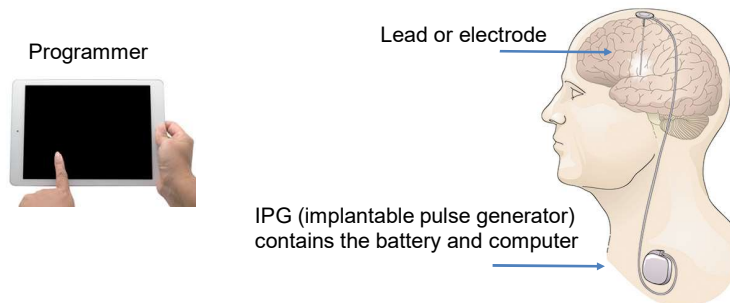


## AMANTADINE EXTENDED RELEASE CAPSULES

- Amantadine extended release capsules (Gocovri®) is approved by the FDA for treatment of LIDs
- In clinical trials, it improved dyskinesias and reduced OFF time (*Mov Disorder* 2015; 30: 788-795; *Mov Disorder* 2017; 32: 1701-1709; *JAMA Neurol* 2017; 74: 941-949)
- The formulation provides an initial lag in amantadine concentration, then a slow rise during the night, and a high concentration in the morning and through the waking day
- Additional clinical studies are necessary to directly compare efficacy of extended release amantadine to immediate release amantadine for control of LIDs

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## DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION (DBS)



<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Impact/NINDS-Contributions-Approved-Therapies/DBS>

DBS can reduce dyskinesias by

- allowing for reduction of levodopa dosage
- directly affecting electrical activity in the brain

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## TREATMENT OF DYSKINESIAS IN THE RESEARCH PIPELINE

- Buspirone – 5HT1A serotonin receptor agonist
  - Phase 3 trial completed. No published results yet
- IRL790 – dopamine D3 receptor agonist
  - Phase 1b trial published – showed good safety and tolerability
  - Phase 2 trial completed. No published results yet
- Eltoprazine - 5HT1A/B serotonin receptor agonist
  - Phase 1/2a trial published - showed benefit
- Foliglurax – modulator of MGluR4 glutamate receptors
  - Phase 2 trial underway in Europe
- NLX-112, befiradol, F13640 - 5HT1A serotonin receptor agonist
  - Preclinical studies in rodents show benefit
- Focused ultrasound – procedure to help control dyskinesias
  - Phase 3 clinical trial underway

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## FOCUSED ULTRASOUND

- Focused beams of ultrasound energy converge within the brain tissue to form a small lesion
- Interferes with the electrical activity of the brain
- Being studied for people with dyskinesias



<https://www.insightec.com/>

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## SUMMARY

- Levodopa-induced dyskinesias and OFF time can adversely affect quality of life in patients with Parkinson's disease
- LIDs may be treated by alteration in Levodopa dose, timing or formulation
- Amantadine (now also available in extended release) can be used to treat LIDs
- Deep brain stimulation may reduce LIDs
- Other medications and procedures for treatment of LIDs are being researched

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## QUESTION & ANSWER



**Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD**  
*Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer*  
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## CLOSING REMARKS

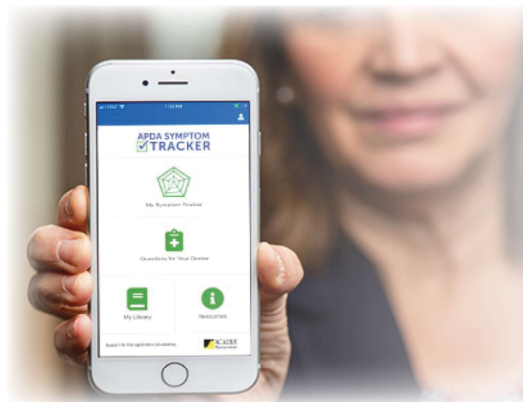


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ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS,  
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