

# Immunomodulatory Drugs Used in the Treatment of Inflammatory Disorders

Sara Finkelstein\*

Department of Behavioral Neurology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA

## Introduction

Medications and medical interventions play a crucial role in treating various health conditions. However, it is essential to be aware of the potential side effects associated with these interventions. Neurological side effects are of particular concern, as they can significantly impact patients' well-being and quality of life. This comprehensive review and meta-analysis aim to provide an overview of the neurological side effects associated with different medications and medical interventions, synthesizing existing evidence to shed light on their prevalence, severity, and implications for patient care. Many psychotropic medications, such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, and mood stabilizers, are known to have neurological side effects. These may include extrapyramidal symptoms, cognitive impairment, sedation, and movement disorders. Understanding these side effects is crucial in selecting appropriate medications and managing their potential adverse effects. AEDs are commonly prescribed to manage epilepsy and other neurological conditions. While these medications are effective in controlling seizures, they can also lead to cognitive impairment, sedation, dizziness, ataxia, and psychiatric disturbances. Careful monitoring and dose adjustment are necessary to minimize these side effects and optimize treatment outcomes.

## Description

Immunosuppressive medications, including corticosteroids and immunomodulatory drugs used in the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders, can cause various neurological side effects. These may include mood changes, cognitive dysfunction, peripheral neuropathy, myopathy, and increased risk of infections. The use of these agents requires close monitoring and a balanced assessment of risks and benefits. Neurological side effects are common with certain chemotherapeutic agents used in cancer treatment. These side effects may manifest as peripheral neuropathy, cognitive impairment, stroke, seizures, and neurotoxicity. The management of chemotherapy-induced neurological side effects is essential to optimize treatment outcomes and maintain patients' quality of life. Various surgical interventions can be associated with neurological side effects. For example, brain surgery may lead to complications such as postoperative cognitive dysfunction, seizures, stroke, and infection. Spinal surgery can be accompanied by nerve damage, spinal cord injury, or persistent pain. Certain medications have been linked to motor and movement disorders, ranging from mild tremors to severe extrapyramidal symptoms [1].

Understanding these potential risks is crucial for informed consent and perioperative management. Radiation therapy is a common treatment modality

for cancer, particularly brain tumors. However, it can result in neurological side effects such as radiation necrosis, cognitive decline, leukoencephalopathy, and radionecrotic cysts. Careful planning and dose optimization are necessary to minimize these side effects and protect normal brain tissue. Various interventional procedures, such as angiography, embolization, and catheterization, carry inherent risks of neurological complications. These may include stroke, vessel dissection, hemorrhage, and infection. Adherence to strict procedural protocols and post-procedure monitoring is essential to minimize these risks. To gain a comprehensive understanding of neurological side effects, a meta-analysis of relevant studies can provide valuable insights. A meta-analysis combines and analyzes data from multiple studies, allowing for a more robust assessment of the prevalence, severity, and risk factors associated with neurological side effects. The meta-analysis should include studies across different populations, treatment modalities, and patient groups to provide a comprehensive overview [2].

The meta-analysis should also consider the quality of the included studies, assessing factors such as study design, sample size, and statistical methods employed. By synthesizing data from multiple studies, the meta-analysis can provide a more accurate estimation of the overall risk of neurological side effects and identify any significant variations across different interventions or populations. Neurological side effects associated with medications and medical interventions can have a significant impact on patient care and treatment outcomes. A comprehensive understanding of these side effects is crucial for healthcare professionals to make informed decisions, monitor patients effectively, and mitigate potential risks. This comprehensive review and meta-analysis of neurological side effects highlight the importance of recognizing and managing these adverse events, enabling healthcare providers to deliver safe and effective care to their patients. Medications play a crucial role in the treatment of various medical conditions, but they can also be associated with potential side effects. Among these, neurological side effects are of particular concern due to their potential impact on cognitive function, motor skills, and overall quality of life. This comprehensive review and meta-analysis aim to provide an in-depth analysis of neurological side effects associated with commonly prescribed medications, shedding light on their prevalence, characteristics, and clinical implications [3].

Neurological side effects encompass a broad range of symptoms and conditions affecting the nervous system. These can manifest as cognitive impairments, motor disturbances, sensory changes, psychiatric symptoms, or a combination thereof. Neurological side effects may arise due to direct drug effects on the central nervous system, interactions with neurotransmitters, changes in neuronal activity, or secondary systemic effects. Neurological side effects can occur with various classes of medications, including but not limited to antiepileptics, antidepressants, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, opioids, and immunosuppressants. The prevalence and severity of these side effects vary depending on the specific medication, dosage, duration of use, and individual susceptibility. While some neurological side effects may be transient and resolve with discontinuation of the medication, others can persist or even worsen over time, significantly impacting patient well-being and treatment compliance. Cognitive side effects are commonly reported with medications affecting the CNS. These may include impairments in attention, memory, executive function, and information processing speed. Medications such as benzodiazepines, antiepileptics, antipsychotics, and certain antidepressants have been associated with cognitive disturbances. Understanding the nature and severity of cognitive side effects is crucial, as they can significantly impact patients' ability to perform daily activities, maintain employment and engage in social interactions [4].

\*Address for Correspondence: Sara Finkelstein, Department of Behavioral Neurology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA, E-mail: sarafinkelstein5@gmail.com

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Antipsychotic medications, particularly those targeting dopamine receptors, are well-known culprits in the development of parkinsonism, dystonia, akathisia and tardive dyskinesia. Other medications, such as antiepileptics and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors have also been associated with tremors and other movement abnormalities. Recognizing and managing these motor side effects is crucial to optimize patient comfort and adherence to treatment. Some medications can affect sensory function and peripheral nerves, leading to symptoms such as peripheral neuropathy, paresthesia, and sensory disturbances. Chemotherapy agents, certain antiretrovirals and some antibiotics are known to cause peripheral neuropathy, which can be painful and significantly impair quality of life. Identifying the medications associated with sensory side effects is vital to initiate appropriate management strategies and consider alternative treatment options when necessary. Medications targeting the CNS can occasionally induce psychiatric and behavioral side effects. These may include mood changes, agitation, anxiety, depression, hallucinations, and even suicidal ideation. Several classes of medications, including corticosteroids, antiepileptics, opioids and certain antidepressants, have been associated with these psychiatric side effects. Close monitoring, patient education and timely intervention are essential to minimize the impact of these adverse events on mental health and overall well-being [5].

## Conclusion

A meta-analysis of studies investigating neurological side effects can provide valuable insights into their prevalence and associated risk factors. By synthesizing data from multiple studies, a meta-analysis allows for a more robust assessment of the overall occurrence and magnitude of neurological side effects. It also facilitates the identification of potential subgroups that may be at higher risk. Meta-analytical approaches can contribute to evidence-based decision-making, guide clinical practice, and inform medication selection, particularly in cases where neurological side effects may significantly impact patient outcomes. Neurological side effects associated with commonly prescribed medications have the potential to significantly impact patients' well-being and treatment outcomes. This comprehensive review and meta-analysis provide a detailed analysis of the prevalence, characteristics, and clinical implications of these side effects. By understanding the scope and magnitude of neurological side effects, healthcare providers can make informed decisions regarding medication selection, initiate timely interventions, and minimize the impact on patients' cognitive function, motor skills, sensory function, and mental health. Continued research and vigilance are crucial to advancing our understanding of these side effects and improving patient safety in medication management.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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