How does the medication work?

The type of medications you may be offered work by preventing the breakdown of a chemical called acetylcholine. People with dementia usually have lower levels of this chemical, which is important for the processes of memory, thinking and reasoning.

It's important to remember that although medication works for some, it doesn't work for everyone. Some people may get better but some may stay the same. Some may improve quicker than other people. Some may get all the side effects in the book, others none at all. What happens to you will depend on your unique brain and your genes.

If you have any further questions about how these medications work, make a note of them to ask the doctor during your appointment.

Getting in touch

You can contact the

Memory Assessment Service on

0300 555 0175

Monday to Friday 9am—5pm

Keeping yourself safe

If you feel you are not able to keep yourself safe, and do not need immediate medical assistance you should contact the

Mental Health Rapid Response Service. They can be contacted on 0300 304 0078 (24 hours)

If you need immediate medical assistance, please call 999 for an ambulance.

To send us a compliment, complaint or suggestion, please contact us at;

Brighton and Hove Memory Assessment Service
Feedback Team
FREEPOST RSKS-RHUR-TTRU
5th Floor, 177 Preston Road
Brighton
BN1 6AG
Email: mas.enquiries@nhs.net

Visit our website for more information
https://memorybrightonhove.org.uk/

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Here

carers centre for brighton and hove

Memory Assessment Service
Brighton & Hove

NHS

Preparing for your medication appointment.

This leaflet contains useful information about your upcoming appointment to discuss possible medications for your memory

Please read this leaflet and complete the section overleaf listing your current medications. Please bring this leaflet with you to your appointment.

What medication are you currently taking?

Please list both prescribed and over the counter medication, including any supplements you are taking

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the medication work?

There are several medicines we will consider prescribing that work in one of two ways. The first group of medicines help to stop the breakdown of acetylcholine, the brain's chemical messenger for memory and the other helps to improve the flow of messages around the brain.

How long does the medication take to work?

Generally the medication will take effect within a couple of weeks, it is important to remember that although not everyone sees an improvement in symptoms the medication may still be stopping the symptoms from getting worse.

Will I experience any side effects?

As with many medications, there is always the chance that you may experience side effects. The main side effects for the medications we will consider are:

- Drowsiness
- Nausea
- Headaches

The side effects tend to be worse at higher doses but in most occasions wear off after a few weeks.

How long will I need to take the medication for?

How long you take any medicine for will be up to you. Taking medicine means remembering every day and may also include getting some side effects. It also often means you get well and stay well. You will need to decide what helps you best and what helps you get on with your life.

If I want to stop the medication, what do I do?

Some medicines can be stopped quickly, others should be stopped slowly. If you decide the medication isn't for you we would recommend stopping the medication following consultation with your GP. It's important to also let us know if you decide to stop taking the medication as there may be other options we could suggest.