Barbara Rinehart

MONOGRAPH

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

My responsibilities were:

- Worked with APhA to develop concept
- Created learning objectives
- Wrote 12-page monograph with 37 references
- Wrote FAQ

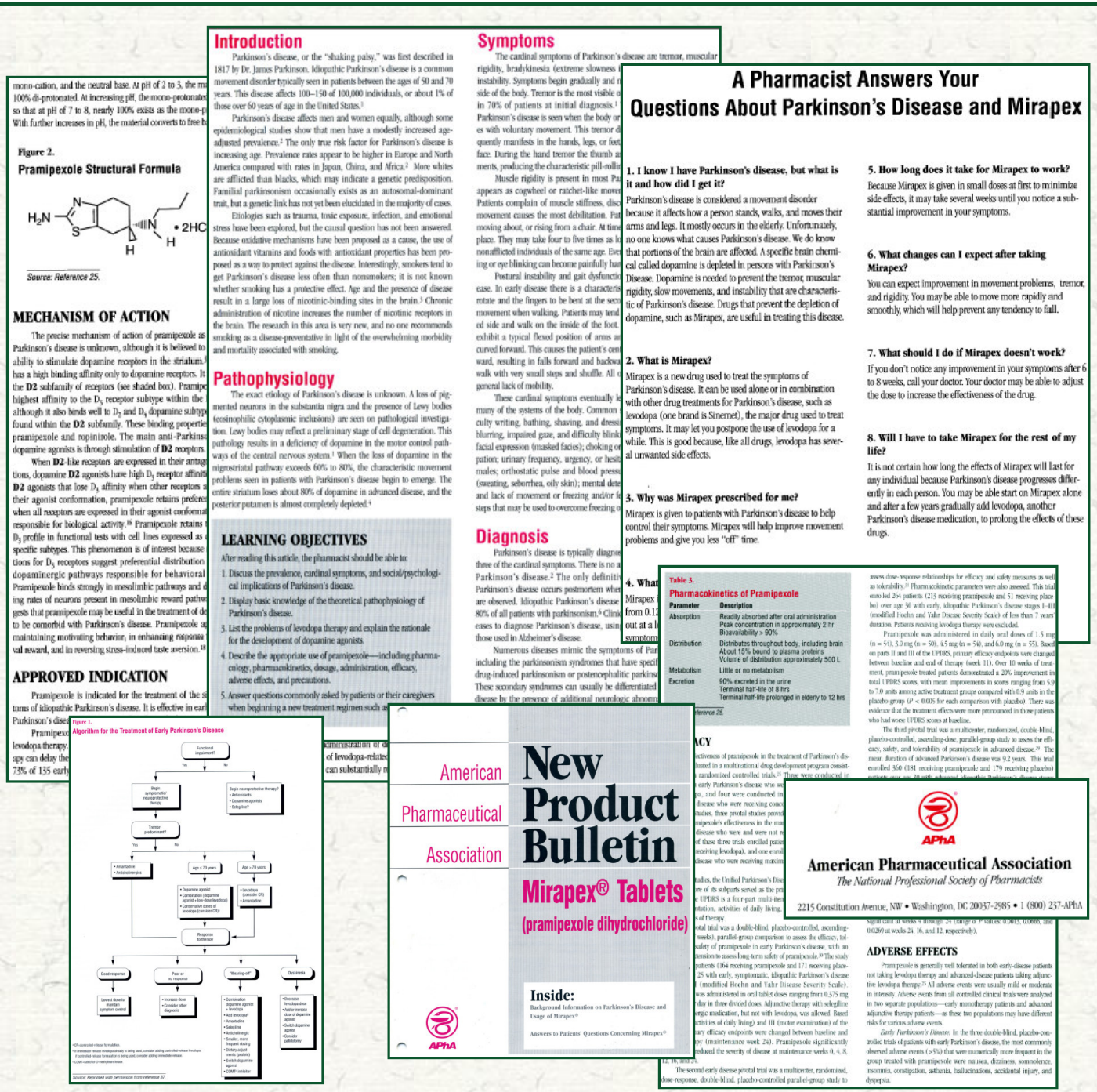

Figure 2.
Pramipexole Structural Formula

Source: Reference 25.

MECHANISM OF ACTION

APPROVED INDICATION

Introduction

Pathophysiology

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this article, the pharmacist should be able to:

1. Discuss the prevalence, cardinal symptoms, and social/psychological implications of Parkinson's disease.
2. Display basic knowledge of the theoretical pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease.
3. List the problems of levodopa therapy and explain the rationale for the development of dopamine agonists.
4. Describe the appropriate use of pramipexole—including pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, dosage, administration, efficacy, adverse effects, and precautions.
5. Answer questions commonly asked by patients or their caregivers when beginning a new treatment regimen such as

Symptoms

Diagnosis

A Pharmacist Answers Your Questions About Parkinson's Disease and Mirapex

1. I know I have Parkinson's disease, but what is it and how did I get it?
2. What is Mirapex?
3. Why was Mirapex prescribed for me?
5. How long does it take for Mirapex to work?
6. What changes can I expect after taking Mirapex?
7. What should I do if Mirapex doesn't work?
8. Will I have to take Mirapex for the rest of my life?

Table 3.
Pharmacokinetics of Pramipexole

Parameter	Description
Absorption	Readily absorbed after oral administration Peak concentration in approximately 2 hr Bioavailability > 90%
Distribution	Distributes throughout body, including brain About 15% bound to plasma proteins Volume of distribution approximately 500 L
Metabolism	Little or no metabolism
Excretion	90% excreted in the urine Terminal half-life of 8 hrs Terminal half-life prolonged in elderly to 12 hrs

Figure 1.
Algorithm for the Treatment of Early Parkinson's Disease

Source: Reprinted with permission from reference 37.

American Pharmaceutical Association

New Product Bulletin

Mirapex® Tablets (pramipexole dihydrochloride)

Inside:
Background Information on Parkinson's Disease and Usage of Mirapex®
Answers to Patients' Questions Concerning Mirapex®

APhA

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ADVERSE EFFECTS