



Neurological diseases

Repurposing as an effective strategy to address unmet medical need

#HealthierTogether



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Neurological disorders, such as dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease have a great physical, psychological, social and economic impact on patients, carers, families and society at large. Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death among all diseases and one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people globally¹.

Treatment possibilities are very limited, or in some cases, non-existent. Historically, neurological conditions have been among the most difficult to target for the development of effective and safe new therapies. This is due to the complexity in their physiopathology and clinical presentation. Therefore, curative treatments for several neurological diseases are still lacking².



Repurposing can deliver faster and more cost-effective treatments

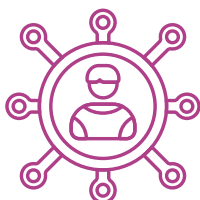
Repurposing has been recognised as a strategy that has a potential to bring new and better treatments much faster and in a more cost-effective way to develop treatment solutions for patients in need today. Repurposing has been equally promising as de novo drug discovery in the field of neurodegeneration and more specifically for Parkinson's disease³. Potential treatments exist across different disease areas: diabetes⁴, asthma medication, blood pressure medication (statins), cancer medication and a cough medicine.

1. Dementia <https://bit.ly/2G70VeJ>
2. Gozzo et al., Access to Innovative Neurological Drugs in Europe: Alignment of Health Technology Assessments Among Three European Countries, *Frontiers in Pharmacology* (2022)
3. Recent Advances in Drug Repurposing for Parkinson's Disease <https://bit.ly/3aWSunG>
4. Drugs that target a particular receptor called glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1)

Solutions



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Patient-centric design for better clinical outcomes

A challenge of repurposing is the determination of dosing, which may differ significantly from that used to treat the disease the drug was originally designed for. For all repurposing candidates reviewed, special consideration must be given to **patient-centric design**, that will support better clinical outcomes. For example, adapted devices or a dosage form could aid Parkinson's disease patients with movement challenges⁵.



Calls for action

Value Added Medicines can address unmet needs and provide significant improvements for patients and healthcare professionals in various therapy areas, including neurological disorders.

Value Added Medicines are developed through an approach defined as continuous innovation: making improvements to medicines that have been around for a long time and that are therefore known to be safe and effective. Starting from existing molecules, we can develop **optimised medicines** that are **affordable** and more quickly available to patients.

For more Value Added Medicines to help address unmet medical needs and improve existing therapies, **changes are needed in the EU framework: these medicines should be recognised as a separate category and the investment to develop them appropriately rewarded.**

Want to know more?

- Value Added Medicines Podcast <https://bit.ly/3N8rjE5>
- White Paper "Creating a European ecosystem for safe, timely and affordable patient-centric innovation" <https://bit.ly/39o4Bdj>

⁵. Drug Repurposing for Parkinson's Disease: The International Linked Clinical Trials experience <https://bit.ly/3OifcVO>