Recommendation to restrict the use of domperidone

17.03.2014 | Circular Number P05/2014

Information on Domperidone

Domperidone-containing medicines have been authorised nationally in several Member States of the EU for the treatment of nausea and vomiting of various causes. In some Member States including Malta, they are authorised for use in children. In others member states, domperidone is authorised for the management of symptoms such as bloating, discomfort and heartburn. In the EU, domepridone is available as tablets, oral suspension and suppositories under various trade names. Furthermore in some Member States domperidone can be obtained without a prescription. A combination product with cinnarizine (an antihistamine) is available in some Member States for the treatment of motion sickness.

Domperidone works by blocking receptors for the neurotransmitter dopamine found in the gut and in the part of the brain linked to vomiting. This helps prevent nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting.

In Malta the following products are licensed;

ATC code	Active Ingredient	Product Name	Pharmaceutical form	Authorisation number	Licence Holder Name
A03FA03	Domperidone Maleate 10mg	Domperidone 10mg Film-Coated Tablets	COATED TABLET	AA154/05801	Wockhardt UK Ltd.
A03FA03	Domperidone Maleate 10mg	Domperidone 10mg Tablets	TABLET	AA729/03301	Cherubino Ltd.
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg (as maleate)	Domperidone 10mg Tablets	TABLET	AA244/37201	P & D Pharmaceuticals Limited
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Domerid 10mg Tablets	TABLET	AA521/06101	Medicem Limited
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Cinet 10mg tablets	TABLET	AA531/00201	Laboratorio Medinfar - Produtos Farmaceuticos SA
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Motilium	FILM-COATED TABLET	MA018/01605	Janssen-Cilag International NV
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Costi	TABLET	MA032/02601	Medochemie Limited
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Domperidon Actavis 10mg tablets	TABLET	MA651/00301	Actavis Group h.f.
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Motilium	TABLET	PI515/02101A	AlphaFarma Ltd.
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Motilium	FILM-COATED TABLET	PI521/02001A	Medicem Limited
A03FA03	Domperidone 10mg	Motilium	FILM-COATED TABLET	PI908/04801A	NeoFarma Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
A03FA03	Domperidone 1mg/ml	CINET 1 mg/ml oral suspension	ORAL SUSPENSION	AA531/00202	Laboratorio Medinfar - Produtos Farmaceuticos SA
A03FA03	Domperidone 1mg/ml	Motilium	ORAL SUSPENSION	MA018/01604	Janssen-Cilag International NV

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	1mg/ml		SUSPENSION		International NV
A03FA03	Domperidone 1mg/ml	Motilium	ORAL SUSPENSION	PI521/02002A	Medicem Limited
A03FA03	Domperidone 30mg	Motilium	SUPPOSITORIES	MA018/01602	Janssen-Cilag International NV
A03FA03	Domperidone 30mg	Motilium	SUPPOSITORIES	PI521/02003A	Medicem Limited

Information from European Medicines Agency (EMA) about the safety concern

The EMA's Pharmacovigilance risk assessment committee reviewed the safety profile of following a request of the Belgian medicines authority over concerns about the medicine's effects on the heart. The injectable form of domperidone was withdrawn in 1985 because of such side effects. Serious effects on the heart, including QT prolongation (an alteration of the electrical activity of the heart) and arrhythmias (unstable heartbeats), have previously been evaluated by the EMA's former Pharmacovigilance Working Party (PhVWP). In 2011, the PhVWP recommended that the product information for domperidone-containing medicines be updated to reflect the risk of these adverse effects and to warn that domperidone should be used with caution in patients with certain heart conditions. However, cases of heart problems in patients using the medicine continued to be reported, and the PRAC was therefore asked to examine whether the benefits still outweighed the risks for these medicines in their approved uses, and whether their marketing authorisations should be maintained or changed across the EU.

In Malta

For Healthcare Professionals

The PRAC recommended that domperidone-containing medicines should remain available and may continue to be used for the management of the symptoms of nausea and vomiting, but

- The recommended dose should be reduced to 10 mg up to three times daily by mouth for adults and adolescents weighing 35 kg or more. The suppositories of 30 mg twice daily can also be used in these patients.
- In children and adolescents weighing less than 35 kg, it should be given by mouth at a dose of 0.25 mg per kg bodyweight up to three times daily. Measuring devices should be included with liquid formulations to allow accurate dosing by bodyweight. The medicine should not normally be used for longer than one week.
- Domperidone should no longer be authorised to treat other conditions such as bloating or heartburn.
- It must not be given to patients with moderate or severe impairment of liver function, or in those who have existing abnormalities of electrical activity in the heart or heart rhythm, or who are at increased risk of such effects.

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- Domperidone must not be used with other medicines that have similar effects on the heart or reduce the breakdown of domperidone in the body (thus increasing the risk of side effects).
- Products supplying a dose of 20 mg by mouth, and suppositories of 10 or 60 mg are no longer recommended for use and should be withdrawn, as should combination products with cinnarizine (an antihistamine) where available. Since no such products are authorised locally the withdrawal of such products does not affect the Maltese market.

The PRAC's recommendations follow a careful assessment of all the available evidence on the effectiveness and safety of domperidone, including published studies and reviews, experimental data, reports of side effects, post-marketing studies and other external information and comment. Domperidone was clearly associated with a small increased risk of potentially life-threatening effects on the heart. This was seen particularly in patients older than 60 years, those taking daily doses of more than 30 mg and those taking other medicines that have similar effects on the heart or reduce the breakdown of domperidone in the body. PRAC considered that reducing the recommended dose and duration of treatment was key to minimising the risks with domperidone.

The PRAC recommendation will now be sent to the Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures – Human (CMDh) for consideration at its next meeting.

For more information please visit **www.ema.europa.eu**

Reporting Adverse Drug Reactions

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to maintain vigilance on domperidone containing medicinal products. Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (side effects) may be reported using the Medicines Authority Form or online at **http://www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/adrportal** or to the marketing authorisation holder or their local representatives.

Prof John J Borg PhD (Bristol)
Post-licensing Director

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to regularly check the Medicines Authority website for product safety updates as these are issued on an ongoing basis.

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