EVER PHARMA

Skin Care Instructions

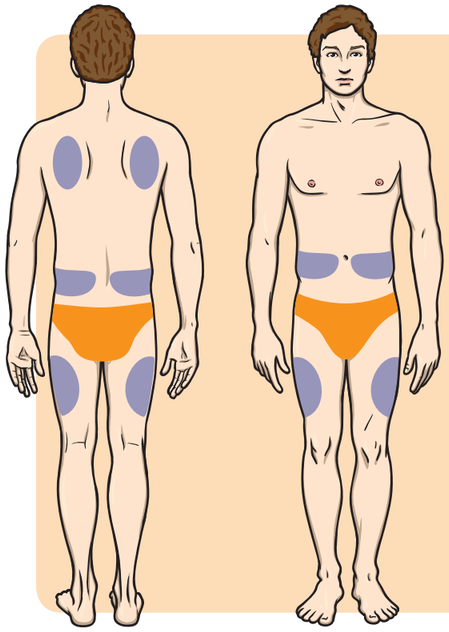
Pump Infusions

D-*mine*® Care

Skin Care

Continuous infusion with Dacepton® (Apomorphine hydrochloride) is a therapeutic strategy to optimise the absorption of Parkinson´s disease medication.

As with many treatments delivered under the skin, it is possible that at some point skin reactions can be experienced. This can include redness, tenderness, itching or the development of small nodules' under the skin at the infusion site. These symptoms are not dangerous and can be helped or prevented by taking certain steps, described in this leaflet.



WHERE CAN APOMORPHINE BE INJECTED?

Apomorphine should be injected subcutaneously (s.c.) into the fatty tissue underneath the skin. Commonly used sites include

- the outer thighs and
- tummy (below the belly button).

Injection sites should be changed daily to prevent skin irritation.

NEVER inject into muscles (i.m.) since this layer is supplied with blood vessels which can lead to blockage of the needle

WHAT ARE SKIN NODULES?

Although apomorphine is rapidly absorbed from subcutaneous tissue, it can pool in the skin causing nodules. A side effect of apomorphine therapy can be redness, tenderness, itching and development of nodules and/or hardening of the skin at the injection site. These reactions often resolve with time, but in some cases, these tissue changes may make insertion of the infusion needle difficult, and may affect absorption of the drug.

WHAT CAUSES THEM?

Histological studies have concluded that apomorphine nodules are a form of panniculitis – a local inflammatory reaction in the subcutaneous tissue. This irritation, which can vary strongly between individuals, sometimes occurs in response to the medication or the needle.

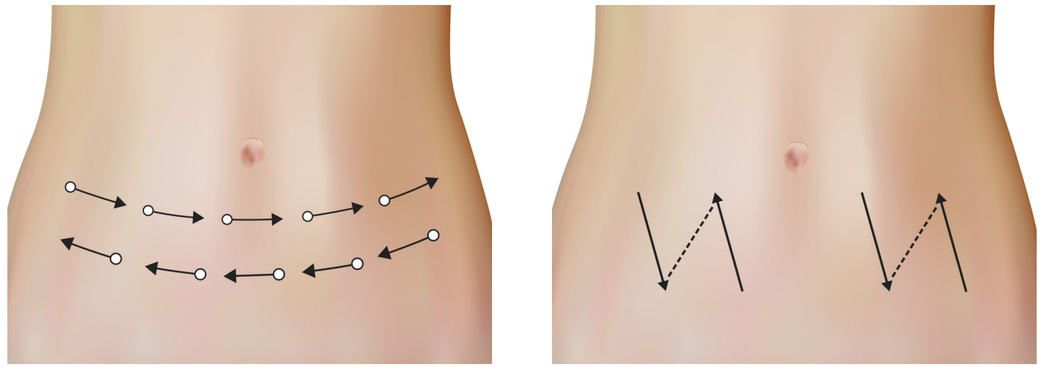
HOW COMMON ARE NODULES WITH APOMORPHINE TREATMENT?

The development of nodules is usually not a significant problem, but occasionally, if severe, can lead to erratic absorption of the drug and may compromise therapeutic effects. Any nodule formation can be improved with strict rotation of the injection site.

HOW TO ROTATE INJECTION SITES?

The injection site has to be changed on a daily basis. In case of 24h infusions it should be changed every 12h. This will help to reduce the formation of nodules beneath the skin. It is important not to use the same area of skin on consecutive days. Changing the injection site daily is called 'site rotation'.

Suitable needle sites can be discussed with the Parkinson's Nurse. The illustrations below show possible schemes for site rotation.



When choosing an infusion site ensure that:

- It is at least 5 cm away from the previous infusion site and the belly button
- It is not injected in a skin fold or in scar tissue
- The skin is not red, itchy, painful or swollen
- A new needle is used every day
- Re-using the same site after needle dislocation or removal is avoided

HOW ELSE CAN POTENTIAL NODULE DEVELOPMENT BE REDUCED?

Good hygiene is important. In many cases, good hygiene will minimise the risk of skin reactions. Use a clean surface to set up the pump preparation.

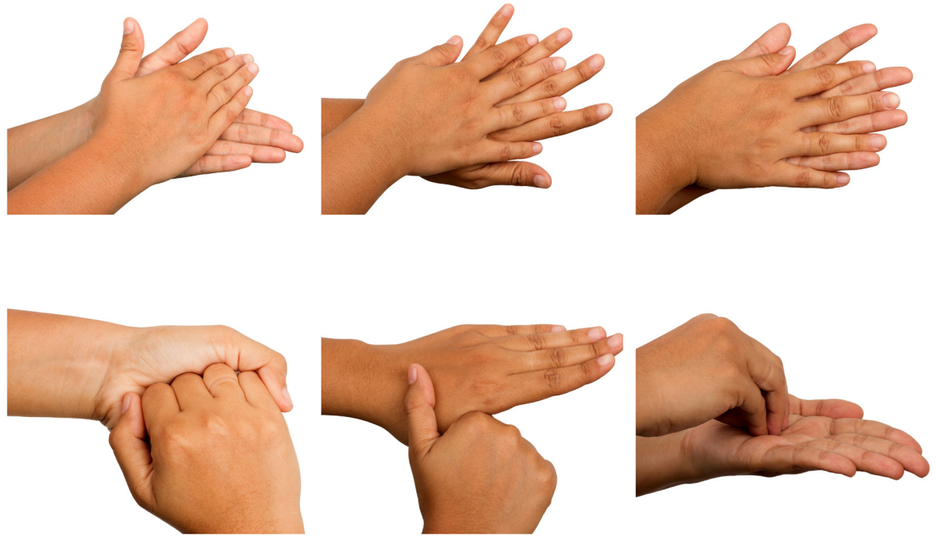
1 Hands Washing

First hands should be washed thoroughly at least for 20 - 30 seconds.

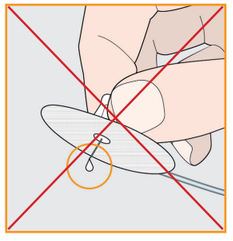
- Remove any rings
- Clean your hands thoroughly before injecting the infusion set
- Use liquid soap and count to 15 while washing
- Pay particular attention to fingertips, fingernails, thumbs and palms
- Dry hands with a clean towel

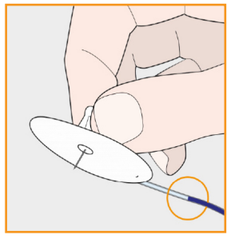
Medical instructions on how to disinfect hands

Hands have to be disinfected with disinfection solution. The solution should be rubbed upon palm and back of hands as well as each finger seperately including fingertips and nails.



2 Insert with a dry needle tip („Dry“ Punction)





Ensure that there is no apomorphine in the needle when inserted into the skin.

(Bhidayasiri et al., 2016)

Stop the priming process of the catheter tube earlier than recommended to prevent the needle becoming wet.

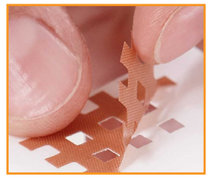
Please ask your PD specialist.

3 Massage

Massaging the skin either manually or using massage equipment (see picture of a spikey ball and massage item) between 3-5 minutes after removal of the needle.

This can be also recommended before setting the infusion line to support circulation.

4 Special tapes



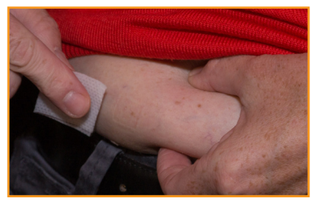
In case that there is a higher tendency of developing nodules, the use of special tapes, e.g. Crosstapes, can be considered. Crosstapes are grid-shaped and self-adhesive tapes that are available in different colors and sizes. They are glued to pain points, acupuncture and trigger points.

The patches contain no active pharmaceutical ingredients and no painkillers. Crosstapes are resistant, water-repellent and breathable material and stick to the skin for several days. It is also possible to take a shower or swim They are available in various sizes in pharmacies or drugstores (www.k-tape.com).

5 Squeeze the skin after removal of the needle

Apomorphine spillage or any excess of Apomorphine under the skin should be squeezed out after each injection. (Bhidayasiri et al., 2016)

Gently squeeze the skin after removal of needle to remove any excess apomorphine.



HOW TO MANAGE SKIN IRRITATIONS?

The following options may be considered

- **Do not inject into an area where the skin is sore, red, or infected.**

- In case of inflamed skin
  - Use an **anti-inflammatory ointment** (e.g. with arnica or comfrey)
  - Hold a **cold compress** to inflamed skin

- In case of nodules
  - Massage the skin with some moisturiser using massage equipment like the spikey ball for 5-10 minutes
  - **Ultrasound** (high frequency sound waves) can be beneficial for treating lumps
  - **Electrical stimulation** of the skin
  - **Medical laser** treatment

- In case of circulation disorders **oil of Saint John‘s wort** can be considered

MANAGING ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Infusion sets with dressings - like an adhesive foil - are recommended because:

- They reduce dislocation of the needle
- They prevent bacterial infection
- Transparent dressings allow visual access to the site, so that site reactions and needle displacement can be seen

But it might happen that allergic reactions occur on the skin due to the adhesive foil:

- **Hypoallergenic dressings** and adhesive foil tapes can be used instead
- **Special ointment like 3M™ Cavilon™ can be used.**

  It forms a breathable, transparent film for long-lasting protection. It is fast drying and non-sticky for better patient comfort. It provides clinically-proven medical adhesive-related skin injury (MARSI) prevention under dressings and tapes around injection sites.

MANAGING PERSISTENT SKIN REACTIONS

If persistent redness, itchiness, pain or swelling around any infusion site are experienced, it should be reported to the Parkinson’s Nurse, who can assess them and offer advice on how to minimise or resolve the problem. This could include

- Training on skin management
- Change of infusion set according to length, size or angle
- Switch to another needle type (e.g. from steel to teflon with a flexible canula)

SHOULD SKIN NODULES STOP TREATMENT?

No. Skin nodules although common, present no significant problem in most cases.

Please refer to complete package leaflet for detailed information. If you have any questions or queries arising from skin irritations, please ask your Parkinson’s disease specialist or

Your D-*mine*® Care Team

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ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: Dacepton 5 mg/ml Solution for infusion. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION: 1 ml contains 5 mg apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate, 20 ml contain 100 mg apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate. Excipient with known effect: Sodium metabisulphite (E223) 1 mg per ml, Sodium chloride 8 mg per ml. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM: Solution for infusion. Clear and colourless to slightly yellow solution, free from visible particles, pH of 3.3 – 4.0. Osmolality: 290 mOsm/kg. THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS: Treatment of motor fluctuations ("on-off" phenomena) in patients with Parkinson's disease which are not sufficiently controlled by oral anti-Parkinson medication. POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION: Selection of Patients suitable for Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion: Patients selected for treatment with Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion should be able to recognise the onset of their "off" symptoms and be capable of injecting themselves or else have a responsible carer able to inject for them when required. It is essential that the patient is established on domperidone, usually 20 mg three times daily, for at least two days prior to initiation of therapy. Apomorphine should be initiated in the controlled environment of a specialist clinic. The patient should be supervised by a physician experienced in the treatment of Parkinson's disease (e.g. neurologist). The patient's treatment with levodopa, with or without dopamine agonists, should be optimised before starting treatment with Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion. Adults: METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION: Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion is a pre-diluted vial intended for use without dilution for subcutaneous use and to be administered as a continuous subcutaneous infusion by minipump and/or syringe-driver. It is not intended to be used for intermittent injection. Apomorphine must not be used via the intravenous route. Do not use if the solution has turned green. The solution should be inspected visually prior to use. Only clear, colourless to slightly yellow and particle free solution should be used. POSOLOGY: Continuous Infusion Patients who have shown a good "on" period response during the initiation stage of apomorphine therapy, but whose overall control remains unsatisfactory using intermittent injections, or who require many and frequent injections (more than 10 per day), may be commenced on or transferred to continuous subcutaneous infusion by minipump and/or syringe-driver as follows: The choice, of which minipump and / or syringe-driver to use, and the dosage settings required, will be determined by the physician in accordance with the particular needs of the patient. DETERMINATION OF THRESHOLD DOSE: The threshold dose for continuous infusion should be determined as follows: Continuous infusion is started at a rate of 1 mg apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate (0.2 ml) per hour then increased according to the individual response each day. Increases in the infusion rate should not exceed 0.5 mg at intervals of not less than 4 hours. Hourly infusion rates may range between 1 mg and 4 mg (0.2 ml and 0.8 ml), equivalent to 0.014-0.06 mg/kg/hour. Infusions should run for waking hours only. Unless the patient is experiencing severe night-time problems, 24 hour infusions are not advised. Tolerance to the therapy does not seem to occur as long as there is an overnight period without treatment of at least 4 hours. In any event, the infusion site should be changed every 12 hours. Patients may need to supplement their continuous infusion with intermittent bolus boosts, as necessary, and as directed by their physician. A reduction in dosage of other dopamine agonists may be considered during continuous infusion. ESTABLISHMENT OF TREATMENT: Alterations in dosage may be made according to the patient's response. The optimal dosage of apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate varies between individuals but, once established, remains relatively constant for each patient. PRECAUTIONS ON CONTINUING TREATMENT: The daily dose of Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion varies widely between patients, typically within the range of 3-30 mg. It is recommended that the total daily dose of apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate should not exceed 100 mg. In clinical studies it has usually been possible to make some reduction in the dose of levodopa; this effect varies considerably between patients and needs to be carefully managed by an experienced physician. Once treatment has been established, domperidone therapy may be gradually reduced in some patients but successfully eliminated only in a few, without any vomiting or hypotension. Paediatric population: Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion is contraindicated for children and adolescents under 18 years of age. Elderly: The elderly are well represented in the population of patients with Parkinson's disease and constitute a high proportion of those studied in clinical trials of apomorphine. The management of elderly patients treated with apomorphine has not differed from that of younger patients. However, extra caution is recommended during initiation of therapy in elderly patients because of the risk of postural hypotension. Renal impairment: A dose schedule similar to that recommended for adults, and the elderly, can be followed for patients with renal impairment. CONTRAINDICATIONS: Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients. In patients with respiratory depression, dementia, psychotic diseases or hepatic insufficiency. Apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate treatment must not be administered to patients who have an "on" response to levodopa which is marred by severe dyskinesia or dystonia. Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion is contraindicated for children and adolescents under 18 years of age. Special warnings and precautions for use Apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate should be given with caution to patients with renal, pulmonary or cardiovascular disease and persons prone to nausea and vomiting. Extra caution is recommended during initiation of therapy in elderly and/or debilitated patients. Since apomorphine may produce hypotension, even when given with domperidone pre-treatment, care should be exercised in patients with pre-existing cardiac disease or in patients taking vasoactive medicinal products such as antihypertensives, and especially in patients with pre-existing postural hypotension. Since apomorphine, especially at high dose, may have the potential for QT prolongation, caution should be exercised when treating patients at risk for torsades de pointes arrhythmia. Apomorphine is associated with local subcutaneous effects. These can sometimes be reduced by the rotation of injection sites or possibly by the use of ultrasound (if available) in order to avoid areas of nodularity and induration. Haemolytic anaemia and thrombocytopenia have been reported in patients treated with apomorphine. Haematology tests should be undertaken at regular intervals as with levodopa, when given concomitantly with apomorphine. Caution is advised when combining apomorphine with other medicinal products, especially those with a narrow therapeutic range. Neuropsychiatric problems co-exist in many patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. There is evidence that for some patients neuropsychiatric disturbances may be exacerbated by apomorphine. Special care should be exercised when apomorphine is used in these patients. Apomorphine has been associated with somnolence, and episodes of sudden sleep onset, particularly in patients with Parkinson's disease. Patients must be informed of this and advised to exercise caution while driving or operating machines during treatment with apomorphine. Patients who have experienced somnolence and/or an episode of sudden sleep onset must refrain from driving or operating machines. Furthermore, a reduction of dosage or termination of therapy may be considered. Impulse control disorders: Patients should be regularly monitored for the development of impulse control disorders. Patients and carers should be made aware that behavioural symptoms of impulse control disorders including pathological gambling, increased libido, hypersexuality, compulsive spending or buying, binge eating and compulsive eating can occur in patients treated with dopamine agonists including apomorphine. Dose reduction/tapered discontinuation should be considered if such symptoms develop. Dopamine dysregulation Syndrome (DDS) is an addictive disorder resulting in excessive use of the product seen in some patients treated with apomorphine. Before initiation of treatment, patients and caregivers should be warned of the potential risk of developing DDS. Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion contains sodium metabisulphite which may rarely cause severe hypersensitivity reactions and bronchospasm. Dacepton 5 mg/ml contains 3.4 mg sodium per ml. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet. Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction: Patients selected for treatment with apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate are almost certain to be taking concomitant medications for their Parkinson's disease. In the initial stages of apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate therapy, the patient should be monitored for unusual side-effects or signs of potentiation of effect. Neuroleptic medicinal products may have an antagonistic effect if used with apomorphine. There is a potential interaction between clozapine and apomorphine, however clozapine may also be used to reduce the symptoms of neuropsychiatric complications. If neuroleptic medicinal products have to be used in patients with Parkinson's disease treated by dopamine agonists, a gradual reduction in apomorphine dose may be considered when administration is by minipump and or syringe-driver (symptoms suggestive of neuroleptic malignant syndrome have been reported rarely with abrupt withdrawal of dopaminergic therapy). The possible effects of apomorphine on the plasma concentrations of other medicinal products have not been studied. Therefore caution is advised when combining apomorphine with other medicinal products, especially those with a narrow therapeutic range. Antihypertensive and Cardiac Active Medicinal Products: Even when co-administered with domperidone, apomorphine may potentiate the antihypertensive effects of these medicinal products. It is recommended to avoid the administration of apomorphine with other drugs known to prolong the QT interval. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation: There is no experience of apomorphine usage in pregnant women. Animal reproduction studies do not indicate any teratogenic effects, but doses given to rats which are toxic to the mother can lead to failure to breathe in the newborn. The potential risk for humans is unknown. Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary. It is not known whether apomorphine is excreted in breast milk. A decision on whether to continue/discontinue breastfeeding or to continue/discontinue therapy with Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion should be made taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding to the child and the benefit of Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion to the woman. Effects on ability to drive and use machines: Apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate has minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. Patients being treated with apomorphine and presenting with somnolence and/or sudden sleep episodes must be informed to refrain from driving or engaging in activities (e.g. operating machines) where impaired alertness may put themselves or others at risk of serious injury or death until such recurrent episodes and somnolence have resolved. UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS: Very common: (≥1/10), common: (≥1/100 to <1/10), uncommon: (≥1/1,000 to <1/100), rare: (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000), very rare: (<1/10,000), Not known: (cannot be estimated from the available data). Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Uncommon: Haemolytic anaemia and thrombocytopenia have been reported in patients treated with apomorphine. Rare: Eosinophilia has rarely occurred during treatment with apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate. Immune system disorders: Rare: Due to the presence of sodium metabisulphite, allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis and bronchospasm) may occur. Psychiatric disorders: Common: Neuropsychiatric disturbances are common in parkinsonian patients. Dacepton 5 mg/ml solution for infusion should be used with special caution in these patients. Neuropsychiatric disturbances (including transient mild confusion and visual hallucinations) have occurred during apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate therapy. Not known: Impulse control disorders: Pathological gambling, increased libido, hypersexuality, compulsive spending or buying, binge eating and compulsive eating can occur in patients treated with dopamine agonists including apomorphine. Aggression, agitation. Nervous system disorders: Common: Transient sedation with each dose of apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate at the start of therapy may occur; this usually resolves over the first few weeks. Apomorphine is associated with somnolence. Dizziness / light-headedness have also been reported. Uncommon: Apomorphine may induce dyskinesias during "on" periods which can be severe in some cases, and in a few patients may result in cessation of therapy. Apomorphine has been associated with sudden sleep onset episodes. Vascular disorders: Uncommon: Postural hypotension is seen infrequently and is usually transient: Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders Common: Yawning has been reported during apomorphine therapy. Uncommon: Breathing difficulties have been reported. Gastrointestinal disorders: Common: Nausea and vomiting, particularly when apomorphine treatment is first initiated, usually as a result of the omission of domperidone. Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Uncommon: Local and generalised rashes have been reported. eneral disorders and administration site conditions: Very common: Most patients experience injection site reactions, particularly with continuous use. These may include subcutaneous nodules, induration, erythema, tenderness and panniculitis. Various other local reactions (such as irritation, itching, bruising and pain) may also occur. Uncommon: Injection site necrosis and ulceration have been reported. Not Known: Peripheral oedema has been reported. Investigations Uncommon: Positive Coombs' tests have been reported for patients receiving apomorphine. Reporting of suspected adverse reactions Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system. Overdose: There is little clinical experience of overdose with apomorphine by this route of administration. Symptoms of overdose may be treated empirically as suggested: Excessive emesis may be treated with domperidone. Respiratory depression may be treated with naloxone. Hypotension: appropriate measures should be taken, e.g. raising the foot of the bed. Bradycardia may be treated with atropine. PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES: Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anti-Parkinson drugs, dopamine agonists, ATC code: N04B C07. Mechanism of action: Apomorphine is a direct stimulant of dopamine receptors and while possessing both D1 and D2 receptor agonist properties does not share transport or metabolic pathways with levodopa. Although in intact experimental animals, administration of apomorphine suppresses the rate of firing of nigro-striatal cells and in low dose has been found to produce a reduction in locomotor activity (thought to represent pre-synaptic inhibition of endogenous dopamine release) its actions on parkinsonian motor disability are likely to be mediated at post-synaptic receptor sites. This biphasic effect is also seen in humans. Pharmacokinetic properties: After subcutaneous injection of apomorphine its fate can be described by a two-compartment model, with a distribution half-life of 5 (±1.1) minutes and an elimination half-life of 33 (±3.9) minutes. Clinical response correlates well with levels of apomorphine in the cerebrospinal fluid; the active substance distribution being best described by a two-compartment model. Apomorphine is rapidly and completely absorbed from subcutaneous tissue, correlating with the rapid onset of clinical effects (4-12 minutes), and that the brief duration of clinical action of the active substance (about 1 hour) is explained by its rapid clearance. The metabolism of apomorphine is by glucuronidation and sulphonation to at least ten per cent of the total; other pathways have not been described. PRECLINICAL SAFETY DATA: Repeat dose subcutaneous toxicity studies reveal no special hazard for humans, beyond the information included in other sections of the SmPC. In vitro genotoxicity studies demonstrated mutagenic and clastogenic effects, most likely due to products formed by oxidation of apomorphine. However, apomorphine was not genotoxic in the in vivo studies performed. The effect of apomorphine on reproduction has been investigated in rats. Apomorphine was not teratogenic in this species, but it was noted that doses which are toxic to the mother can cause loss of maternal care and failure to breathe in the newborn. No carcinogenicity studies have been performed. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS: Sodium metabisulphite (E223), Sodium chloride, Hydrochloric acid (for pH-adjustment), water for injections: Incompatibilities: In the absence of compatibility studies, this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products. SHELF LIFE: Unopened: 30 months. After opening and filling the drug product in syringes attached with infusion sets: chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 7 days at 25 °C. From a microbiological point of view, unless the method of opening and further handling precludes the risk of microbial contamination, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions are the responsibility of the user. Single use only. Discard any unused contents. Special precautions for storage: Keep the vials in the outer carton in order to protect from light. Do not refrigerate or freeze. NATURE AND CONTENTS OF CONTAINER: Clear glass vials, type I with bromobutyl rubber stopper and a flip-off cap, containing 20 ml solution for infusion, in packs of 1 or 5 vials. Bundle packs: 5 x 1, 10 x 1, 30 x 1, 2 x 5 and 6 x 5. Not all pack sizes may be marketed. Special precautions for disposal and other handling: Do not use if the solution has turned green. The solution should be inspected visually prior to use. Only clear and colourless to slightly yellow solutions without particles in undamaged containers should be used. For single use only. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed in accordance with local requirements. Continuous infusion and the use of a minipump and or syringe-driver The choice of which minipump and or syringe-driver to use, and the dosage settings required, will be determined by the physician in accordance with the particular needs of the patient. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER: EVER Neuro Pharma GmbH, Oberburgau 3, 4866 Unterach, Österreich. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER: AT/H/0364/002/DC. Legal Category: POM. Date of last revision: March 2017.

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