



PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PD) IN THE ADVANCED STAGE

Parkinson's disease affects the central nervous system. Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disease and with progression the beneficial effects of oral medication become increasingly unpredictable.

In the advanced stage the disease affects motor function. Patients may experience the loss of control in movements or frequent motor fluctuations. In addition further difficulties might occur:

- Cognitive decline and behavioral problems
- Communication
- Difficulty with urination
- Falls
- Impaired performance of activities of daily living
- Sexual dysfunction
- Swallowing
- · Walking and balance problems
- Weight loss



WHAT IS DACEPTON[®]?

Dacepton° is a medication for PD patients in the advanced stage of the disease. The active ingredient of Dacepton° is apomorphine hydrochloride. Dacepton° is a strong and direct-acting dopamine-receptor agonist. Given subcutaneously, it has a rapid onset of antiparkinsonian effect qualitatively faster compared to levodopa.

Some patients have taken dopamine agonists as oral medication before. The onset of the efficacy of Dacepton® is faster due to subcutaneous administration.

Under consultation with the PD specialist, patients may have tried to optimize or adjust oral medication. Many patients have experienced that this achieves very little improvement, or the problems they have had remained unchanged.

WHAT DOES DACEPTON® CONTINUOUS INFUSION THERAPY MEAN?

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disease and with progression the beneficial effects of oral medication become increasingly unpredictable. The side effects such as "wearing off" or "peak of dose" dyskinesias (involuntary movements) and "off-periods" become more prevalent and patients may find that they:

- Become progressively less mobile
- · Experience increasing or longer "off" periods
- Have dyskinesias which may include:
 - involuntary movements
 - Slow, writing motions
 - Increased muscle tone
 - Delayed initiation of movements
 - Uncontrollable movements of arms or legs
- Are suffering from "on" and "off" periods



Such symptoms may cause to put off some activities, leaving patients feel increasingly dependent on others. Maybe patients do not want to leave their home any more because they feel unable to cope with symptoms. Doing simple things of daily activities by oneself become challenging and affect patients and their family. All of this may have a strong impact on quality of life.

The PD specialist will talk with patients about options to improve their situation. Continuous dopaminergic stimulation (CDS) as infusion therapy is an experienced therapy and might be suitable for some patients. Even if patients haven't responded to oral dopamine agonists in the past, they could benefit from Dacepton.

WHY DO SYMPTOMS INCREASE?

Risk factors for motor complications include disease severity, longer disease duration and higher levodopa dosage. Motoric problems are often addressed with levodopa adjustments and the addition of other oral medication. As disease progresses the number of dopamine cells in the brain deteriorates and the formation of dopamine in the brain is limited. The ability of the body to absorb oral medication decreases with progression of age and the disease. Especially the gut might be unable to absorb oral medication. This phase is characterized by the need to diminish the interval between intake of oral medication. As a result plasma levels may fluctuate erratically and cause side effects such as involuntary movements.

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WHY MIGHT DACEPTON® CONTINUOUS INFUSION WORK?

Dacepton[®] offers improved disease management when oral medication is failing to control motor fluctuations. Dacepton[®] continuous infusion therapy works well in patients who:

- Have had a positive response to levodopa in the past
- Have clear "on" and "off" periods
- Are well motivated
- Have good social network for assistance

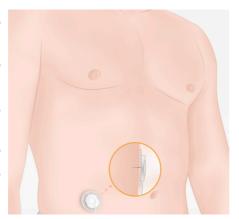


WHAT DOES SUBCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION MEAN?

Dacepton° is administered via a catheter over a small portable pump system.

A short and extremely fine needle is positioned into the subcutaneous fatty tissue of the belly just under the skin.

By continuous drug administration into the subcutaneous tissue, almost 100% of the drug is absorbed into the blood stream. Because of the high absorption of apomorphine, the therapy can help to have maximum control of Parkinson's disease.



WHY IS THE CONTINUOUS INFUSION MORE BENEFICIAL?

The primary treatment goal is to reduce the frequency and duration of "off" periods. Continuous and constant dopaminergic stimulation with subcutaneous infusion mimics best the effect of dopamine in the brain. The therapy may:

- reduce motor complications and dyskinesias and
- improve overall quality of life.

Dacepton[®] infusion can reduce "off" periods and improves motor complications which consequently enables a better control of PD.

Dacepton[®] continuous infusion therapy can also reduce the intake of oral PD medication – enabling patients to enjoy life more independently.

As the disease progresses additional treatment options are available. The therapy with apomorphine is the least invasive form of continuous infusion. Patients can be on Dacepton continuous infusion therapy for many years.

HOW DOES THE CONTINUOUS INFUSION PUMP LOOK LIKE?

The portable and discreet pump for the application of continuous infusion of Dacepton[®] has been especially designed for PD patients.

- Small pump dimensions
- Leight weight
- Comfortable waistband or neck/shoulderstrap under clothing

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DACEPTON° CONTINUOUS INFUSION THERAPY?

In the beginning of the therapy Dacepton® continuous infusion can cause nausea and vomiting. Nausea doesn't affect everyone, is very temporary and usually only occurs in the beginning when the Dacepton® therapy is initiated. An antiemetic medication has to be given just in the beginning of the therapy.

Although apomorphine is rapidly absorbed from subcutaneous tissue, it can pool in the skin causing nodules. Nodule formation is usually not a significant problem and can be improved with strict rotation of the injection site used and skin hygiene.

In general symptoms like low blood pressure, vivid dreams, hallucinations, confusion and sedation may occur under dopaminergic therapy.

Please refer to the complete summary of product characteristics or patient information leaflet for furher information.

HOW COMPLICATED IS THE HANDLING WITH A PUMP SYSTEM?

The pump system is intuitive and easy to operate. For most patients, a full day's treatment can be set up. This enables patients to set the pump up in the morning (or have it set up by a carer) just once a day. Patients may get on with their daily activities without living after strict timetables.

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HOW WILL BE EVALUATED IF DACEPTON° CONTINUOUS INFUSION THERAPY IS SUITABLE?

In advance the patients will have to do a response test with the PD specialist. If the patient is suitable for Dacepton[®] continuous infusion therapy, the PD specialist will discuss the options with him/her and an extended support team (GP, carer, district nurse etc).

APOMORPHINE RESPONSE TEST

The response test confirms that the patient responds to apomorphine. The appropriate dose for each patient is established by incremental dosing schedules. The test involves a series of subcutaneous injections and movement assessments. Each injection will be a slightly higher dose than the previous one to establish the individual and right dose for the patient.

• BEFORE THE TEST

Three days prior to the test and as directed by ther PD specialist, the patient will be asked to take an anti-emetic (anti-sickness medication). This is very important as Dacepton® (like levodopa), may make patients feel sick, although this is very temporary and does not affect everyone.

THE TEST

The test will be done with small injection needles. They are short and extremely fine and are injected into the subcutaneous tissue (just under the skin). Some patients report that they do not notice they are being injected. At each dose level the patient will be asked to attempt a number of motor assessments, including standing, walking or finger tapping. On rare occasions, Dacepton® can cause a drop in blood pressure. The PD nurse/specialist will monitor the blood pressure, throughout the test using a blood pressure cuff. The patients will be asked about condition an wellbeing during the testing period.

WHY MIGHT DACEPTON° CONTINUOUS INFUSION THERAPY NOT WORK?

The response to PD therapies varies. Optimal effect from Dacepton® therapy is seen in patients with idiopathic Parkinson's disease. Some patients with syndromes very similar to PD do not respond well to anti-parkinsonian medications, including Dacepton®. If patients have had no response to levodopa in the past they might be not suitable for the Dacepton® therapy. In some cases patients are suffering from additional diseases which might prevent their PD specialist from recommending the Dacepton® therapy (like kidney, lung or cardiovascular diseases).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOESN'T APOMORPHINE MAKE DEPENDENT?

Apomorphine is not morphine and has no narcotic effect which could make dependent. Apomorphine is specifically used to treat Parkinson's disease.

WHY IS A NEEDLE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION?

Continuous infusion of medication is the most rapid and efficient way of delivering a drug and ensures constant and consistent control. Absorption issues seen with oral medication are avoided. When Dacepton® is applied a very small, fine needle is used that only goes into the subcutaneous fatty layer of the skin. Dacepton® application does not need long needles like those for intravenous treatment. "Set and forget" aspect of subcutaneous Dacepton® with a pump system ensures optimal treatment.

DO PATIENTS HAVE TO WEAR THE PUMP SYSTEM THE WHOLE DAY LONG?

Usually the pump system works during waking hours.

MAY PATIENTS WEAR THE PUMP SYSTEM WHILST BATHING OR SHOWE-RING?

The pump system is splash water resistant but may not be worn during showering or bathing.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL AROUND?

Patients travelling will need to take a doctors letter detailing that it is necessary for Parkinson's disease patients to carry supplies of apomorphine hydrochloride, needles and injectable pens/syringes with them at all times, together with their infusion pump. The letter should also note that this Parkinson's medication must be stored at room temperature (25 degrees centigrade). Dacepton® should be taken onboard as hand luggage.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

- For medical information, please contact a PD specialist or PD Nurse.
- For any further questions concerning disposables, please call your local distributor.

Our Vision is to improve the quality of your life.

Each and every day, step by step.



