

Domperidone

Domperidone is a medication that can be used in Parkinson's disease (PD) to help relieve symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, often related to medications such as levodopa or dopamine agonists. It works by blocking the dopamine receptors in the part of the brain that controls nausea and vomiting. It also works on the bowel to speed up gut movements.

In PD, the nerve cells in the brain that produce dopamine start to die off, leading to a shortage of dopamine. This can cause a range of motor and non-motor symptoms, including nausea and vomiting.

Domperidone can be used to help relieve these symptoms, although it does not address the underlying cause of the disease. It can be taken orally as a tablet or suspension, or as a rectal suppository.

It is important to note that domperidone can have potential side effects, including headaches, dizziness, and changes in heart rhythm. It may also interact with other medications, so it is important to discuss with your doctor or pharmacist before starting this medication.

Patients typically require an ECG before initiation to check there is no underlying rhythm disturbance that domperidone could worsen.

Due to the risks, it is rarely given for prolonged periods outside of the context of PD.

Overall, domperidone can be a useful medication for people with PD who experience nausea and vomiting as a symptom of their disease or a side effect of their medications. However, it should be used with caution and under the supervision of a specialist or GP.