

Indomethacin is a medication that belongs to the class of drugs known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). It is commonly used for the treatment of pain, inflammation, and fever. Indomethacin is effective in the treatment of two rare headache disorders known as hemicrania continua and paroxysmal hemicrania.

Hemicrania continua is a chronic headache disorder that causes continuous pain on one side of the head. The pain is usually moderate to severe in intensity and can be accompanied by symptoms such as eye tearing, nasal congestion, and drooping of the eyelid. Hemicrania continua is treated with indomethacin, which is effective in relieving the pain associated with this condition.

Paroxysmal hemicrania is a type of headache disorder that causes severe pain on one side of the head, often accompanied by symptoms such as eye tearing, nasal congestion, and drooping of the eyelid. The pain typically occurs in brief episodes that can last anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Indomethacin is known to be highly effective in the treatment of paroxysmal hemicrania, often leading to complete resolution of symptoms.

It is important to note that indomethacin is not suitable for everyone and should only be used under the guidance of a healthcare professional. Common side effects of indomethacin include stomach upset, nausea, and diarrhoea. Rare but serious side effects include bleeding in the stomach or intestines, kidney problems, and high blood pressure.

If you are prescribed indomethacin for hemicrania continua or paroxysmal hemicrania, it is important to take the medication exactly as directed by your consultant. Do not exceed the recommended dose and do not take the medication for longer than prescribed.

If you experience any concerning side effects or have any questions about the use of indomethacin, speak with your consultant or GP.