

# Domperidone (Motilium®)

## What is domperidone?

Domperidone is an antiemetic and a prokinetic medicine. It is available on a doctor's prescription only.

## What is it for?

Domperidone is used to treat nausea and vomiting (antiemetic), and discomfort caused by a slow-moving stomach known as gastroparesis. Symptoms of gastroparesis include not being able to finish a meal, feeling of being "too full" or bloated after a meal, a loss of appetite, feeling sick and maybe vomiting or belching without relief.

Domperidone can increase the movement of the stomach and intestines (prokinetic), allowing food to move more easily through the stomach. In some patients, domperidone may be used to help manage the symptoms of reflux.

Your doctor may have prescribed domperidone for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for your child.

## How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people, as the dose may vary for each patient.

Domperidone is usually given 3 times a day and is best given 15 to 30 minutes before meals or food and, if necessary, at bedtime.

Do not give medicines that neutralise stomach acid (e.g. Mylanta®, Gaviscon®) within 2 hours of taking domperidone, as enough stomach acid is required to ensure proper absorption of the medicine.

## What to do if a dose is missed

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose missed and give the next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, give the medication as soon as you remember and then go back to giving the medicine as usual.

Do not try to make up for missed dose(s) by giving more than one dose at a time. This can increase the risk of unwanted side effects.

## Storing the medicine

Store below 30°C.



It is important to keep domperidone locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or any other damp, warm place, because this may make the medication less effective.

Keep the tablets in the blister pack until it is time to give them.

Domperidone **liquid** has a **short shelf life** so it is important to make sure the medication is still in date before giving each dose. Remember to **shake the bottle well before measuring your child's dose**.

## Use of other medication

Domperidone can interact with several medications so it is important to advise your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medication including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. These include:

- Medications which neutralise or reduce the amount of stomach acid such as antacids like Mylanta®, proton pump inhibitors such as omeprazole (Losec®) and H2 receptor antagonists such as ranitidine (Zantac®).
- Medications which have anticholinergic activity, such as tricyclic antidepressants (such as amitriptyline), phenothiazines (such as prochlorperazine), some antihistamines (such as Polaramine® and Phenergan®) or some drugs used to treat abdominal cramps (such as Buscopan®).
- Certain antifungal medications, antiviral medications and antibiotics.
- Aprepitant (i.e., a medication used to prevent nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy).
- Certain medications used to treat irregular heartbeats, high blood pressure and chest pain.

## Possible side-effects

Domperidone is usually well tolerated. Most side effects are mild and usually last only a short time. These include:

- headache, trouble sleeping
- drowsiness, dizziness and tiredness
- nervousness, irritability and agitation
- dry mouth or thirst
- stomach cramps, diarrhoea, nausea, constipation, changes in appetite or heartburn
- rash, itchy skin, itchy eyes and crusty eyelids with discharge
- mouth ulcers or cold sores
- irregular or no menstrual period (girls). This will reverse when treatment is stopped.

Contact your child's doctor as soon as possible if any of the following side effects occur:

- fast or irregular heartbeats
- swelling of hands, ankles or feet
- passing urine more frequently or pain when passing urine

- uncontrollable movements
- seizures (fits)
- shortness of breath, skin rash, itching, swelling of face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat.

If you are worried about any side effects, please contact your child's doctor.

### Dosage forms and strengths

- Tablets in 10mg
- Domperidone 1mg/mL suspension (made by PCH Pharmacy)

The PCH Pharmacy Department will advise you if any additional dosage forms are available.

If you have any concerns, contact your child's doctor or the PCH Pharmacy Department Dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2

Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1

**In case of overdose or poisoning, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.**



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