

Key Elements from the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC)

The information below is relevant for all routes of administration of metoclopramide unless otherwise specified. Please refer to the SmPCs for individual products for full prescribing information.

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Parenteral route/IM-IV

Adult population

Metoclopramide is indicated in adults for:

- Prevention of post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV)
- Symptomatic treatment of nausea and vomiting, including acute migraine induced nausea and vomiting
- Prevention of radiotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (RINV).

Paediatric population

metoclopramide is indicated in children (aged 1-18 years) for:

- Prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) as a second line option
- Treatment of established post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV) as a second line option

Oral route

Adult population

Metoclopramide is indicated in adults for:

- Prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV)
 - Prevention of radiotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (RINV).
 - Symptomatic treatment of nausea and vomiting, including acute migraine induced nausea and vomiting.
- Metoclopramide can be used in combination with oral analgesics to improve the absorption of analgesics in acute migraine.

Paediatric population

Metoclopramide is indicated in children (aged 1-18 years) for:

- Prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) as a second line option

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Parenteral route

The solution can be administered intravenously or intramuscularly. Intravenous doses should be administered as a slow bolus (at least over 3 minutes).

All indications (adult patients)

For prevention of PONV a single dose of 10mg is recommended.

For the symptomatic treatment of nausea and vomiting, including acute migraine induced nausea and vomiting and for the prevention of radiotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (RINV): the recommended single dose is 10 mg, repeated up to three times daily

The maximum recommended daily dose is 30 mg or 0.5mg/kg body weight.

The injectable treatment duration should be as short as possible and transfer to oral treatment should be made as soon as possible.

All indications (paediatric patients aged 1-18 years)

The recommended dose is 0.1 to 0.15 mg/kg body weight, repeated up to three times daily by intravenous route. The maximum dose in 24 hours is 0.5 mg/kg body weight.

Dosing table

Age	Body Weight	Dose	Frequency
1-3 years	10-14 kg	1 mg	Up to 3 times daily
3-5 years	15-19 kg	2 mg	Up to 3 times daily
5-9 years	20-29 kg	2.5 mg	Up to 3 times daily
9-18 years	30-60 kg	5 mg	Up to 3 times daily
15-18 years	Over 60kg	10 mg	Up to 3 times daily

The maximum treatment duration is 48 hours for treatment of established post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV).

The maximum treatment duration is 5 days for prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV).

Oral route

All indications (adult patients)

For immediate release preparations

The recommended single dose is 10 mg, repeated up to three times daily.

For prolonged release preparations

15mg strength

The recommended single dose is 15 mg, repeated up to twice daily.

30mg strength

The recommended dose is 30mg once daily.

For all preparations

The maximum recommended daily dose is 30 mg or 0.5mg/kg body weight.

The maximum recommended treatment duration is 5 days.

Prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) (paediatric patients aged 1-18 years)

The recommended dose is 0.1 to 0.15 mg/kg body weight, repeated up to three times daily by oral route. The maximum dose in 24 hours is 0.5 mg/kg body weight.

Dosing table

Age	Body Weight	Dose	Frequency
1-3 years	10-14 kg	1 mg	Up to 3 times daily
3-5 years	15-19 kg	2 mg	Up to 3 times daily
5-9 years	20-29 kg	2.5 mg	Up to 3 times daily
9-18 years	30-60 kg	5 mg	Up to 3 times daily
15-18 years	Over 60kg	10 mg	Up to 3 times daily

[Appropriate measuring device must be provided with the product, and instructions for use must be included in the SmPC]

The maximum treatment duration is 5 days for prevention of delayed chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV).

For tablets/capsules/granules

Please refer to the SmPC for individual products for additional information regarding posologies

adaptation-implemented in the SmPC depending on the strength of the formulations

For formulations which cannot be used to administer a 5mg dose
Tablets/capsules/granules are not suitable for use in children weighing less than 61 kg.
Other pharmaceutical forms/strengths may be more appropriate for administration to this population.

For formulations which can be used to administer a 5mg dose
Tablets/capsules/granules are not suitable for use in children weighing less than 30 kg.
Other pharmaceutical forms/strengths may be more appropriate for administration to this population

All routes of administration at the exception prolonged release preparations

Method of administration:

A minimal interval of 6 hours between two administrations is to be respected, even in case of vomiting or rejection of the dose (see section 4.4).

15mg strength prolonged release preparations

Method of administration:

A minimal interval of 12 hours between two administrations is to be respected, even in case of vomiting or rejection of the dose (see section 4.4).

30 mg strength prolonged release preparations

Method of administration:

A minimal interval of 24 hours between two administrations is to be respected, even in case of vomiting or rejection of the dose (see section 4.4).

All routes of administration

Special population

Elderly

In elderly patients a dose reduction should be considered, based on renal and hepatic function and overall frailty.

Renal impairment:

In patients with end stage renal disease (Creatinine clearance \leq 15 ml/min), the daily dose should be reduced by 75%.

In patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (Creatinine clearance 15-60 ml/min), the dose should be reduced by 50% (see section 5.2).

Hepatic impairment:

In patients with severe hepatic impairment, the dose should be reduced by 50% (see section 5.2).

Paediatric population

Metoclopramide is contraindicated in children aged less than 1 year (see section 4.3).

4.3 Contraindications

For all formulations

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1

- Gastrointestinal haemorrhage, mechanical obstruction or gastro-intestinal perforation for which the stimulation of gastrointestinal motility constitutes a risk
- Confirmed or suspected pheochromocytoma, due to the risk of severe hypertension episodes
- History of neuroleptic or metoclopramide-induced tardive dyskinesia
- Epilepsy (increased crises frequency and intensity)
- Parkinson's disease
- Combination with levodopa or dopaminergic agonists (see section 4.5)
- Known history of methaemoglobinaemia with metoclopramide or of NADH cytochrome-b5 deficiency.
- Use in children less than 1 year of age due to an increased risk of extrapyramidal disorders (see section 4.4)

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

For all routes of administration at the exception of prolonged release preparations

Neurological Disorders

Extrapyramidal disorders may occur, particularly in children and young adults, and/or when high doses are used. These reactions occur usually at the beginning of the treatment and can occur after a single administration. Metoclopramide should be discontinued immediately in the event of extrapyramidal symptoms. These effects are generally completely reversible after treatment discontinuation, but may require a symptomatic treatment (benzodiazepines in children and/or anticholinergic anti-Parkinsonian medicinal products in adults).

The time interval of at least 6 hours specified in the section 4.2 should be respected between each metoclopramide administration, even in case of vomiting and rejection of the dose, in order to avoid overdose.

Prolonged treatment with metoclopramide may cause tardive dyskinesia, potentially irreversible, especially in the elderly. Treatment should not exceed 3 months because of the risk of tardive dyskinesia (see section 4.8). Treatment must be discontinued if clinical signs of tardive dyskinesia appear.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome has been reported with metoclopramide in combination with neuroleptics as well as with metoclopramide monotherapy (see section 4.8). Metoclopramide should be discontinued immediately in the event of symptoms of neuroleptic malignant syndrome and appropriate treatment should be initiated.

Special care should be exercised in patients with underlying neurological conditions and in patients being treated with other centrally-acting drugs (see section 4.3)

Symptoms of Parkinson's disease may also be exacerbated by metoclopramide.

For the 15 mg strength prolonged release preparations

Neurological Disorders

Extrapyramidal disorders may occur, particularly in children and young adults, and/or when high doses are used. These reactions occur usually at the beginning of the treatment and can occur after a single administration. Metoclopramide should be discontinued immediately in the event of extrapyramidal symptoms. These effects are generally completely reversible after treatment discontinuation, but may require a symptomatic treatment (benzodiazepines in children and/or anticholinergic anti-Parkinsonian medicinal products in adults).

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Special care should be exercised in patients with underlying neurological conditions and in patients being treated with other centrally-acting drugs (see section 4.3)

Symptoms of Parkinson's disease may also be exacerbated by metoclopramide.

For the 30 mg strength prolonged release preparations

Neurological Disorders

Extrapyramidal disorders may occur, particularly in children and young adults, and/or when high doses are used. These reactions occur usually at the beginning of the treatment and can occur after a single administration. Metoclopramide should be discontinued immediately in the event of extrapyramidal symptoms. These effects are generally completely reversible after treatment discontinuation, but may require a symptomatic treatment (benzodiazepines in children and/or anticholinergic anti-Parkinsonian medicinal products in adults).

The time interval of at least 24 hours specified in the section 4.2 should be respected between each metoclopramide administration, even in case of vomiting and rejection of the dose, in order to avoid overdose.

Prolonged treatment with metoclopramide may cause tardive dyskinesia, potentially irreversible, especially in the elderly. Treatment should not exceed 3 months because of the risk of tardive dyskinesia (see section 4.8). Treatment must be discontinued if clinical signs of tardive dyskinesia appear.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome has been reported with metoclopramide in combination with neuroleptics as well as with metoclopramide monotherapy (see section 4.8). Metoclopramide should be discontinued immediately in the event of symptoms of neuroleptic malignant syndrome and appropriate treatment should be initiated.

Special care should be exercised in patients with underlying neurological conditions and in patients being treated with other centrally-acting drugs (see section 4.3)

Symptoms of Parkinson's disease may also be exacerbated by metoclopramide.

For all routes of administration

Methaemoglobinemia

Methemoglobinemia which could be related to NADH cytochrome b5 reductase deficiency has been reported. In such cases, metoclopramide should be immediately and permanently discontinued and appropriate measures initiated (such as treatment with methylene blue).

Cardiac Disorders

There have been reports of serious cardiovascular undesirable effects including cases of circulatory collapse, severe bradycardia, cardiac arrest and QT prolongation following administration of metoclopramide by injection, particularly via the intravenous route (see section 4.8).

Special care should be taken when administering metoclopramide, particularly via the intravenous route to the elderly population, to patients with cardiac conduction disturbances (including QT prolongation), patients with uncorrected electrolyte imbalance, bradycardia and those taking other drugs known to prolong QT interval.

Intravenous doses should be administered as a slow bolus (at least over 3 minutes) in order to reduce the risk of adverse effects (e.g. hypotension, akathisia).

Renal and Hepatic Impairment

In patients with renal impairment or with severe hepatic impairment, a dose reduction is recommended (see section 4.2).

Please refer to the SmPC for individual products for additional warnings about excipients.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

All routes of administration

Contraindicated combination

Levodopa or dopaminergic agonists and metoclopramide have a mutual antagonism (see section 4.3).

Combination to be avoided

Alcohol potentiates the sedative effect of metoclopramide.

Combination to be taken into account

Due to the prokinetic effect of metoclopramide, the absorption of certain drugs may be modified.

Anticholinergics and morphine derivatives

Anticholinergics and morphine derivatives may have both a mutual antagonism with metoclopramide on the digestive tract motility.

Central nervous system depressants (morphine derivatives, anxiolytics, sedative H1 antihistamines, sedative antidepressants, barbiturates, clonidine and related)

Sedative effects of Central Nervous System depressants and metoclopramide are potentiated.

Neuroleptics

Metoclopramide may have an additive effect with other neuroleptics on the occurrence of extrapyramidal disorders.

Serotonergic drugs

The use of metoclopramide with serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs may increase the risk of serotonin syndrome.

Digoxin

Metoclopramide may decrease digoxin bioavailability. Careful monitoring of digoxin plasma concentration is required.

Cyclosporine

Metoclopramide increases cyclosporine bioavailability (C_{max} by 46% and exposure by 22%). Careful monitoring of cyclosporine plasma concentration is required. The clinical consequence is uncertain.

Mivacurium and suxamethonium

Metoclopramide injection may prolong the duration of neuromuscular block (through inhibition of plasma cholinesterase).

Strong CYP2D6 inhibitors

Metoclopramide exposure levels are increased when co-administered with strong CYP2D6 inhibitors such as fluoxetine and paroxetine. Although the clinical significance is uncertain, patients should be monitored for adverse reactions.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

All routes of administration

Pregnancy A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1000 exposed outcomes) indicates no malformative toxicity nor foetotoxicity. Metoclopramide can be used during pregnancy if clinically needed. Due to pharmacological properties (as other neuroleptics), in case of metoclopramide administration at the end of pregnancy, extrapyramidal syndrome in newborn cannot be excluded. Metoclopramide should be avoided at the end of pregnancy. If metoclopramide is used, neonatal monitoring should be undertaken.

Breastfeeding

Metoclopramide is excreted in breast milk at low level. Adverse reactions in the breast-fed baby cannot be excluded. Therefore metoclopramide is not recommended during breastfeeding. Discontinuation of metoclopramide in breastfeeding women should be considered.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

All routes of administration

Metoclopramide may cause drowsiness, dizziness, dyskinesia and dystonias which could affect the vision and also interfere with the ability to drive and operate machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

All routes of administration

Adverse reactions listed by System Organ Class. Frequencies are defined using the following convention: very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$, $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10000$, $< 1/1000$), very rare ($< 1/10000$), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

System Organ Class	Frequency	Adverse Reactions
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		
	Not known	Methaemoglobinaemia, which could be related to NADH cytochrome b5 reductase deficiency, particularly in neonates (see section 4.4). Sulphaemoglobinaemia, mainly with concomitant administration of high doses of sulphur-releasing medicinal products
Cardiac disorders		
	Uncommon	Bradycardia, particularly with intravenous formulation
	Not known	Cardiac arrest, occurring shortly after injectable use, and which can be subsequent to bradycardia (see section 4.4); Atrioventricular block, Sinus arrest particularly with intravenous formulation; Electrocardiogram QT prolonged; Torsade de Pointes;
Endocrine disorders*		
	Uncommon	Amenorrhoea, Hyperprolactinaemia
	Rare	Galactorrhoea
	Not known	Gyneacomastia
Gastrointestinal disorders		

	Common	Diarrhoea
General disorders and administration site conditions		
	Common	Asthenia
Immune System disorders		
	Uncommon	Hypersensitivity
	Not known	Anaphylactic reaction (including anaphylactic shock particularly with intravenous formulation)
Nervous system disorders		
	Very common	Somnolence
	Common	Extrapyramidal disorders (particularly in children and young adults and/or when the recommended dose is exceeded, even following administration of a single dose of the drug) (see section 4.4), Parkinsonism, Akathisia
	Uncommon	Dystonia, Dyskinesia, Depressed level of consciousness
	Rare	Convulsion especially in epileptic patients
	Not known	Tardive dyskinesia which may be persistent, during or after prolonged treatment, particularly in elderly patients (see section 4.4), Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (see section 4.4)
Psychiatric disorders		
	Common	Depression
	Uncommon	Hallucination
	Rare	Confusional State
Vascular disorder		
	Common	Hypotension, particularly with intravenous formulation
	Not known	Shock, syncope after injectable use, Acute hypertension in patients with pheochromocytoma (see section 4.3)

* Endocrine disorders during prolonged treatment in relation with hyperprolactinaemia (amenorrhoea, galactorrhoea, gynaecomastia).

The following reactions, sometimes associated, occur more frequently when high doses are used:

- Extrapyramidal symptoms: acute dystonia and dyskinesia, parkinsonian syndrome, akathisia, even following administration of a single dose of the medicinal product, particularly in children and young adults (see section 4.4).
- Drowsiness, decreased level of consciousness, confusion, hallucination.

4.9 Overdose

All routes of administration

Symptoms

Extrapyramidal disorders, drowsiness, decreased level of consciousness, confusion, hallucination, and cardio-respiratory arrest may occur.

Management

In case of extrapyramidal symptoms related or not to overdose, the treatment is only symptomatic (benzodiazepines in children and/or anticholinergic anti-parkinsonian medicinal products in adults). A symptomatic treatment and a continuous monitoring of the cardiovascular and respiratory functions should be carried out according to clinical status.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

All routes of administration

Renal impairment The clearance of metoclopramide is reduced by up to 70% in patients with severe renal impairment, while the plasma elimination half-life is increased (approximately 10 hours for a creatinine clearance of 10-50 mL/minute and 15 hours for a creatinine clearance <10 mL/minute).

Hepatic impairment

In patients with cirrhosis of the liver, accumulation of metoclopramide has been observed, associated with a 50% reduction in plasma clearance.