

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Name of the medicinal product

Metoclopramide (as hydrochloride monohydrate) 10 mg tablets
Emiton tablets

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each tablet contains 10 mg of metoclopramide (as hydrochloride monohydrate).

Excipient with known effect

Each tablet also contains 101.24 mg of lactose monohydrate (see section 4.4).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. Pharmaceutical form

Tablet.

Round, white, biconvex tablet with a break line on one side and embossed 'MC10' on the other side.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Adults 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.

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

Posology

All indications (adult patients)

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

The maximum recommended daily dose is 30 mg or 0.5 mg/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 60 kg	10 mg	Up to 3 times daily

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

Tablets 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.

Method of administration

For oral use.

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).

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

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

- Gastrointestinal haemorrhage, mechanical obstruction or gastrointestinal perforation for which the stimulation of gastrointestinal motility constitutes a risk.
- Confirmed or suspected phaeochromocytoma is associated with the risk of severe hypertension episodes.
- History of neuroleptic or metoclopramide-induced tardive dyskinesia.
- Epilepsy (increased crisis frequency and intensity).
- Parkinson's disease.
- Combination with levodopa or dopaminergic agonists (see section 4.5).
- Known history of methaemoglobinaemia with metoclopramide or 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

Neurological disorders

Extrapyramidal disorders may occur, particularly in children and young adults, and/or when high doses are used. These reactions usually occur 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 section 4.2 should be respected between each metoclopramide administration, even in case of vomiting of the dose, to avoid overdose.

Prolonged treatment with metoclopramide may cause tardive dyskinesia, which is 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 drugs that act on the central nervous system (see section 4.3).

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

Methaemoglobinaemia

Methaemoglobinaemia 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 4.2 and 4.8).

Special care should be taken when administering metoclopramide, particularly via the intravenous route to the elderly population, to patients with cardiac conduction disorders (including QT prolongation), patients with uncorrected electrolyte imbalance, bradycardia and those taking other drugs known to prolong QT interval (such as class IA and III antiarrhythmics, tricyclic antidepressants, macrolides, antipsychotics (see section 4.8)). Intravenous doses should be administered as a slow bolus (over at least 3 minutes) 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).

Other precautions

- Metoclopramide may cause elevation of serum prolactin levels.
- Care should be exercised when using metoclopramide in patients with a history of atopy (including asthma) or porphyria.
- Special care should be taken when administering metoclopramide intravenously to patients with “sick sinus syndrome” or other cardiac conduction disturbances.

Excipients

This medicine contains **lactose**. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

The small amount of lactose in this medicine is unlikely to cause symptoms in patients with lactose intolerance.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Contraindicated combination

Concomitant use of levodopa or dopaminergic agonists and metoclopramide is contraindicated due to mutual antagonism (see section 4.3).

Combinations to be avoided

Alcohol potentiates the sedative effect of metoclopramide.

Combinations 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 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 products)
The 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.

Ciclosporin

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

Mivacurium and suxamethonium

Metoclopramide 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 Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicates no malformative nor foetotoxicity of metoclopramide. Metoclopramide can be used during pregnancy if clinically needed. Due to pharmacological properties (as with other neuroleptics), in the case of metoclopramide administration at the end of pregnancy, an extrapyramidal syndrome in the 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 human milk at low levels. Adverse reactions in the breastfed baby cannot be excluded. Therefore, metoclopramide is not recommended during breastfeeding. Discontinuation of metoclopramide in breastfeeding women should be considered.

4.7 Effects on the ability to drive and use machines

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

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse reactions are listed by System Organ Class. Frequencies are defined using the following convention: very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100, < 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000, < 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000, < 1/1,000$), very rare ($< 1/10,000$), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

System Organ Class	Frequency	Undesirable effects
Immune system disorders		
	Uncommon	Hypersensitivity
	Not known	Anaphylactic reaction (including anaphylactic shock particularly with intravenous formulations)
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 formulations
	Not known	Cardiac arrest, occurring shortly after injectable use, and which can be after bradycardia (see sections 4.2 and 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	Gynaecomastia
Gastrointestinal disorders		
	Common	Diarrhoea
General disorders and administration site conditions		
	Common	Asthenia
Nervous system disorders		
	Very common	sleepiness

	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 medicinal product) (see section 4.4), Parkinsonism, akathisia
	Uncommon	Dystonia (including visual disturbances and oculogyric crisis), 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
	Not known	Suicidal ideation
Vascular disorders		
	Common	Hypotension, particularly with intravenous formulations
	Not known	Shock, syncope (fainting) after injectable use. Acute hypertension in patients with pheochromocytoma (see section 4.3). Transient increase in blood pressure.

* Endocrine disorders during prolonged treatment of 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).
- Sleepiness, depressed level of consciousness, fuzzy thinking, hallucination.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the e-PV desktop applications (https://drive.google.com/file/d/16hwTz0587ZWtSWadbBAMwQPOD_KSExZP/view) or search for e-PV Mobile applications on the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms

Extrapyramidal disorders, sleepiness, depressed level of consciousness, fuzzy thinking, 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).

Symptomatic treatment and continuous monitoring of cardiovascular and respiratory functions should be carried out according to clinical status.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacological classification: 16.2 Antiemetics.

Mechanism of Action

Metoclopramide is a substituted benzamide. It is used among other things for its anti-emetic properties.

Its anti-emetic effect is due to two central-acting mechanisms of action:

- antagonism of the dopaminergic D2 receptors in the chemoreceptor trigger zone and the vomiting centre of the medulla involved in apomorphine-induced vomiting.
- antagonism of the serotonergic 5HT3 receptors and agonism of the 5HT4 receptors involved in chemotherapy-induced vomiting.

In addition to its central action, metoclopramide has a stimulatory effect on digestive motor activity through a peripheral mode of action. It has an anti-dopaminergic effect and potentiates the action of acetylcholine. This results in accelerated gastric emptying and an increase in the pressure of the lower oesophageal sphincter. Metoclopramide does not affect gastric secretion.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

After oral administration, the relative bioavailability compared to intravenous administration is 60 to 100%. Peak plasma levels are reached within 0.5 to 2 hours.

The volume of distribution is 2-3 L/kg; 13-22% is bound to plasma proteins.

Metoclopramide is mainly excreted in the urine, both in unchanged form and in sulphate or glucuronide conjugate form. The main metabolite is N-4 sulphur conjugate. The plasma elimination half-life is 5 to 6 hours, regardless of route 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.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

No indications of a safety risk in humans were found in laboratory animals. This is based on data from safety pharmacology studies, and data on repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate
Pregelatinized maize starch
Maize starch amyral
Aerosil
Magnesium stearate
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

The medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section 6.6.

6.3 Shelf life

24 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of the container

Blister pack: The tablets are packed in a PVC-aluminium foil blister pack.

Pack size: 3 x 10 tablets and 10 x 10 tablets.

Polypropylene bottle: The tablets are packed in a polypropylene bottle with a LDPE tamper proof closure.

Pack size: 500 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. APPLICANT

Varichem Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd
194 Gleneagles Road
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8. MANUFACTURER

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9. REGISTRATION DETAILS

Zimbabwe registration number: 2023/16.2/6492
Zimbabwe category for distribution: Pharmacist Initiated Medicines (P.I.M.)

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

January 2024