

Perphenazine Shortage

Perphenazine is currently only marketed by one company, AA Pharma Inc.¹

DIN	Company	Brand Name	Active ingredient	Strength
00335096	AA PHARMA INC	PERPHENAZINE	PERPHENAZINE	16 MG
00335118	AA PHARMA INC	PERPHENAZINE	PERPHENAZINE	8 MG
00335126	AA PHARMA INC	PERPHENAZINE	PERPHENAZINE	4 MG
00335134	AA PHARMA INC	PERPHENAZINE	PERPHENAZINE	2 MG

Perphenazine is a piperazine phenothiazine.² Indications³:

- Psychotic disorders
- Nausea and vomiting

Shortage management strategies:

1. Ensure medication is indicated. For example, first general antipsychotics should be avoided if possible in elderly patients.⁴ If no clear indication, consider tapering patient off the medication.

2. Therapeutic alternatives^{2,4}:

a) Phenothiazines are the most similar pharmacologic alternatives:

Drug	CPE* (perphenazine = 10 mg)	Psychotic Disorder: Suggested Dose	Nausea and Vomiting: Suggested Dose
Chlorpromazine	100 mg	Initial dose: 25–75 mg daily in 2–4 divided doses. Daily dose may be ↑twice weekly by 25–50 mg until symptoms are controlled. During an acute episode of schizophrenia: 300–1000 mg/day Maintenance dose: 300–600 mg/day given in 1 or 2 divided doses with larger dose at bedtime	12.5–25 mg Q 4–6H Increase dose as needed and tolerated
Fluphenazine	2 mg	2.5–10 mg daily in divided doses Q6–8H Usual dose: 1–5 mg daily as a single dose	

Methotrimeprazine	70 mg	Initial dose: 25–75 mg/day; use caution if starting with >100 mg/day Usual dose: 50–200 mg/day Divided in 1–3 doses	
Prochlorperazine	?		5–10 mg 3–4 times daily
Trifluoperazine	5 mg	2–5 mg BID or TID Usual dose: 15–20 mg/day	

* Chlorpromazine 100 mg equivalent

b) Other first generation antipsychotics e.g. loxapine, haloperidol ²

c) Second generation antipsychotics e.g. risperidone, olanzapine ²

References:

1. Health Canada. Drug Product Database Online Query. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada; [cited 2013 Jan 13]. Available from: <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>. Accessed 09Nov2015.
2. Virani AS, Bezchlibnyk-Butler KZ, Jeffries JJ, editors. Clinical handbook of psychotropic drugs. 20th ed. Toronto: Hogrefe & Huber Publishers; 2014.
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4. Perphenazine General Monograph (CPhA monograph) In RxTx online. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca>. Accessed 09Nov2015.

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