

Promethazine HCl Injectable

Sandoz Canada Inc., the sole Canadian supplier of parenteral promethazine, has discontinued this product.¹

Indications for injectable promethazine^{2,3}

- Prevention and treatment of nausea and vomiting when oral route is not feasible
- Pre/postoperative/obstetric sedation (uncommon)
- Acute allergic reactions when oral route is not feasible (uncommon)

Alternate formulations of promethazine

- Oral products are available:
 - Histantil® 50 mg^{1,4}
- Compound parenteral promethazine using bulk chemical
 - Powder listed in Medisca catalogue⁵

Therapeutic alternatives for promethazine hydrochloride injectable

1. Injectable drugs for prevention and treatment of nausea and vomiting (list not inclusive)^{3,6}:

Drug	Strength	Recommended Dose
Dopamine antagonists		
Haloperidol	5 mg/ml; 1 ml ampoules	2-5 mg IM q2h PRN (adult)
Methotrimeprazine	25 mg/ml; 1 ml ampoules	Adult: 6.25-25 mg IV; 10-25 mg IM q8h PRN; 12.5-50 mg SC q4-6h PRN
		Ped: 0.0625-0.125 mg/kg/day IM in one or divided doses
Metoclopramide	5 mg/ml; 2 ml, 10 ml, 30 ml vials	10-20 mg IV/IM up to QID (adult)
Antihistamines		
Dimenhydrinate	10 mg/ml IV; 5 ml vials 50 mg/ml IM; 1 ml ampoules	Adult: 50-100 mg IV/IM q4-6h PRN (max:400 mg/24h)
		Ped: 5 mg/kg/day or 150 mg/m ² /day in 4 divided doses (max: 300 mg/24h)
		PONV: 50 mg pre-operatively, repeat post-operatively PRN to max 400 mg/24h
Diphenhydramine	50 mg/ml; 1 ml ampoules	Adult: 25-50 mg IV/IM q4h (max:400 mg/24h)
		Ped: 5 mg/kg/day or 150 mg/m ² /day in 4 divided doses (max: 300 mg/24h)
Serotonin antagonists		
Ondansetron	2 mg/ml; 2ml, 4ml ampoules	PONV Adult: 4mg IV immediately before anesthesia or post-operatively
		PONV Ped: 0.1 mg/kg IV; max: 4 mg/kg
PONV— post-operative nausea and vomiting		

2. Preoperative, postoperative, obstetric sedation: benzodiazepines (e.g. midazolam, lorazepam), opioids (e.g. fentanyl) short-acting anaesthetics (e.g. etomidate, ketamine, propofol)
3. Allergic reactions: injectable antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine)

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References: 1. PharmaClik. McKesson Canada. Available at <https://www.mckesson.ca/customer-access>. Accessed 07July2016. 2. Promethazine hydrochloride injection. Product Monograph. In: Health Canada website. Available at <http://webprod5.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/info.do?code=9920&lang=eng>. Accessed 7July2016. 3. Various monographs. The Ottawa Hospital Parenteral Drug Therapy Manual, 25th ed, 2014. 4. Drug Product Database. In: Health Canada website. Available at <http://webprod5.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>. Accessed 07July2016. 5. Medisca product catalogue. Available at www.medisca.ca. Accessed 7July2016. 6. Stanford FC. Nausea and vomiting in adults. In Dynamed online. Available at www.dynamed.com (by subscription). Accessed 7July2016. 7. NAUSEA & VOMITING (N/V): Symptom Management. In RxFiles Drug Comparison Charts online. Available at www.rxfiles.ca. Accessed 12Jul2016. 8. Habal R. Chapter 180: Drug Therapy in Pregnancy. In: Ed-in-Chief Marx J, Rosen's Emergency Medicine, Elsevier Health, 8th edition, 2014: pp 2316-2330.