

## Patient Information Leaflet

# Levomepromazine for nausea, vomiting, agitation, delirium

### Name of the medicine:

Levomepromazine

### What is it for?

Levomepromazine can be used to treat vomiting and feelings of being sick (nausea).

Levomepromazine is also used for the treatment of agitation and acute confusion (delirium) in palliative care patients.

Most medicines available in the UK have a licence for use. The licence describes the ways in which the medicine can be given and the conditions it can be used to treat. In order to get a licence, the manufacturer of the medicine has to show that it is safe and made to a high standard.

Use of levomepromazine for nausea and vomiting, and how you have been told to take it, is outside its licence. There is experience and research to support the use of levomepromazine in this way. The person who prescribed your medicine will have considered carefully the benefits for you.

Information on this is not included in the information leaflet supplied with the medicine. We are giving you this extra leaflet to tell you about the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight other information. This should be read along with the manufacturer's patient information leaflet.

### What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?

Levomepromazine is available in tablets and injection form.

The usual dose is 3mg by mouth or 2.5mg by injection for vomiting or feelings of being sick. It can be taken every 4 to 6 hours when you have these symptoms.

The starting dose for agitation and delirium will be a little higher, at between 5mg and 6.25mg depending on forms of the medicine available. It can be given a little more frequently at every 2 to 4 hours as needed. How you take the dose will depend on the form of medicine that you have been given.

### Forms and doses of medicine

Many tablets that can be split have a line down the middle that makes it easier to split. This line is called a score. Splitting the tablet means the right dose can be taken.

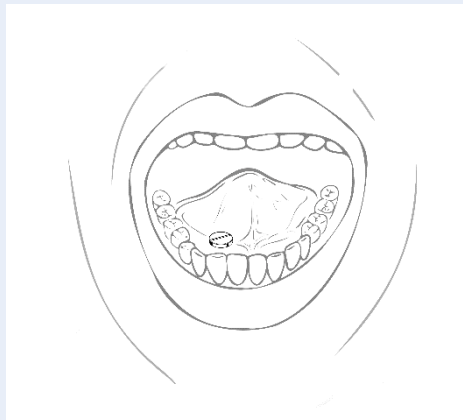


### 6mg tablet (scored)

The usual dose is 3mg (half a 6mg tablet) or 6mg, which is swallowed. The tablet should start to work within 30 minutes. This may take a little longer to get into your body.

### 25mg tablet (scored)

The usual dose with this tablet is 6.25mg (quarter of a tablet) which can either be swallowed or placed under your tongue and allowed to dissolve. The tablet should start to work in 30-60 minutes.



### 25mg/ml injection

The usual dose is 2.5mg (=0.1ml volume which is a very small amount of the injection ampoule). If you need an injection this will usually be given by a doctor or nurse via a needle under your skin. Sometimes it may be possible to train a relative or carer to give your injection or for the injection solution to be given under your tongue (sublingually).

## **What are the most common side effects I might experience?**

Like all medicines, it is possible that you may experience side-effects when you take levomepromazine.

The most common side effects are sleepiness and feeling dizzy or faint especially when getting up from a lying or sitting position. This will usually pass on its own but if it does not, tell your doctor.

Other side effects include restlessness or unusual muscle movements. If you notice this let your doctor or nurse know.

You may experience a dry mouth. Keeping your teeth and mouth clean will help, along with having regular small sips of water.

You should contact your doctor or nurse if side effects become troublesome.

## What other information should I know about this medicine?

### Alcohol

It is best to avoid alcohol as it may make you feel very sleepy.

### Driving

There is a risk of feeling drowsy when you are taking this medicine. If this happens do not drive. You should also not operate any machinery if you feel drowsy.

### Sunlight

It is useful to wear sunscreen if you go outside on a sunny day as levomepromazine can make your skin more sensitive to the effects of sun.

## Any other important information?

Levomepromazine can be an effective anti-sickness medication but it may not help with all types of nausea and vomiting. Other treatments may be needed and can be discussed with your doctor or nurse.

Tell your doctor if you or someone else in your family has a history of blood clots. Medicines like these have been associated with the formation of blood clots.

If you have Parkinson's disease (a condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over many years), this medicine may worsen your symptoms.

Your medication needs to be kept in a safe place out of the reach of children.

It needs to be stored in the original container. Return unused medication to a pharmacy.