

# Pramipexole

## Information sheet for GPs

Pramipexole is indicated for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of advanced idiopathic Parkinson's disease in combination with levodopa. The dosage may be written as base or salt. The following strengths of tablets are available:

88micrograms base	=125micrograms salt
180 micrograms base	=250micrograms salt
700 micrograms base	=1mg salt

### Dose regimen

- The tablets should be swallowed with water and may be taken with or without food
- The total daily dose should be administered in three equal divided doses.
- Initially 264 micrograms base (375micrograms salt) each day doubling the dose every 5-7days to 1.08mg base (1.5mg salt) daily in 3 divided doses.
- If necessary further increase by 540 micrograms base (720 micrograms salt) daily at weekly intervals
- Maximum of 3.3mg base daily (4.5 mg salt) in 3 divided doses.
- The dose of levodopa should be reduced.
- In patients with creatinine clearance of 20-50ml/min the initial daily dose should be 176 micrograms base (125 micrograms salt) daily in 2 divided doses and this dose can be halved and given once a day if the creatinine clearance is less than 20ml/min.
- If renal function continues to decline then dose may be reduced by the same percentage decrease in creatinine clearance.

### Side Effects

- Solmonance
- Hallucinations/vision abnormalities
- Dyskinesias
- Sudden onset of sleep
- Postural hypotension usually during first few days
- Nausea and constipation

### Action

Incidence increased at doses higher than 1.5 mg of salt daily.  
Ophthalmologic monitoring at regular intervals if this occurs.  
Reduce levodopa dose during initial titration.  
Patients should be informed that the tablets can impair their ability to drive or operate machinery and they should not drive and should avoid alcohol.  
Monitor blood pressure especially at the beginning of treatment. More likely to occur if titration is too fast  
Advise patient to take with food

*Ask about side effects at every consultation*

### Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to Pramipexole or any other component of the product.

### Cautions

- Patients with psychotic disorders
- Severe cardiovascular disease
- Pregnancy and lactation

### Drug Interactions

- Cimetidine, diltiazem, quinidine, quinine, ranitidine, triamterene, verapamil, digoxin, procainamide and trimethoprim. (Reduce pramipexole dose).
- Caution when patients are taking other sedating medication

**Please consult the manufacturers Data Sheet or Summary of Product Characteristics for further information**

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