

# **APOMINE® Intermittent**

Apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate

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## **Consumer Medicine Information**

### **What is in this leaflet**

This leaflet answers some common questions about APOMINE Intermittent. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using APOMINE Intermittent against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet in a safe place.**

You may need to read it again.

For further information on APOMINE Intermittent please contact your health care professional.

## **What APOMINE Intermittent is used for**

APOMINE Intermittent contains apomorphine, which belongs to a group of medicines called dopaminergic compounds.

Apomorphine is used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease to reduce the number and severity of bouts of freezing and stiffness (or "off" periods).

This medicine works by acting on dopamine receptors. These receptors help control movement by the body.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine in children under 18 years.

## **Before you use APOMINE Intermittent**

### **When you must not use it**

**Do not use APOMINE Intermittent if you have an allergy to:**

- apomorphine

- sodium metabisulfite (E223)
- certain types of pain killers such as morphine, or other opioid analgesics

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

**Do not use this medicine if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- certain forms of dementia eg. Alzheimer's Disease
- severe kidney or liver disease
- problems with circulation of blood in the brain (cerebrovascular disease)
- breathing problems (respiratory depression)

**Do not use this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start using this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

## **Before you use it**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- a history of severe nausea or vomiting
- heart disease
- kidney disease
- liver disease
- lung disease
- problem gambling
- any addictive behaviour (eg compulsive sex, shopping or eating)

**If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start using APOMINE Intermittent.**

## **Taking other medicines**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or using any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines may interfere with how APOMINE Intermittent works in your body. These include:

- tetrabenazine, a medicine used to treat movement disorders
- metoclopramide, a medicine used to treat nausea
- medicines used to treat some psychiatric (mental) conditions (eg phenothiazines, haloperidol, flupenthixol)
- papaverine, a medicine which expands blood vessels
- amphetamines.

These medicines may be affected by APOMINE Intermittent, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to use different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful of or avoid while using this medicine.

## **How to use APOMINE Intermittent**

### **How much is given**

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your initial response to APOMINE Intermittent.

### **How it is given**

You will usually be in hospital when you start using APOMINE Intermittent. It is recommended that you are given

an anti-nausea drug (domperidone) for a few days, and that you temporarily stop all your other anti-Parkinsonian medication before you start using APOMINE Intermittent, so that the correct dose of APOMINE Intermittent can be determined.

This medicine is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously), usually into your lower abdomen or outer thigh. It is injected several times a day using a device called D-Mine<sup>®</sup> Pen, and not with a conventional syringe and needle that you may be familiar with.

You and/or your carers will be trained by hospital staff to recognise when and how to give the injections.

## **If you use too much (Overdose)**

**Immediately notify your doctor or nurse, or if you are not in the hospital, telephone the Poisons Information Centre (13 11 26) or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have used too much APOMINE Intermittent. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include severe nausea and vomiting, slow or troubled breathing, restlessness, hallucinations or unconsciousness.

# **While you are using APOMINE Intermittent**

## **Things you must do**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are using APOMINE Intermittent.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using this medicine.**

**If you plan to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are using this medicine.**

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

**If you become pregnant while you are using this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

**Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

## **Things you must not do**

**Do not use APOMINE Intermittent to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

## **Things to be careful of**

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how APOMINE Intermittent affects you.**

This medicine may cause drowsiness, sudden onset of sleepiness, dizziness or light-headedness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

## **Side effects**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using APOMINE Intermittent.**

APOMINE Intermittent helps most people with Parkinson's disease but may have unwanted side effects. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 65 years of age, you may have an increased chance of experiencing side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

**Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- nausea or vomiting
- drowsiness
- sudden onset of sleepiness
- dizziness or light-headedness
- pain and sores at the injection site
- unpleasant metallic taste
- runny nose
- watery eyes
- spontaneous penile erection
- confusion
- lack of impulse control
- decreased or increased sexual arousal
- increased need to gamble
- compulsive eating, shopping or medication use
- aggression and agitation
- headache

- swelling of your arms and hands, or legs and ankles (peripheral oedema).

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine. They are usually mild and short-lived.

**If any of the following happen tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- hallucinations
- severe nausea and vomiting

The above list includes serious side effects which may require medical attention. These side effects are rare.

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

## **After using APOMINE Intermittent**

### **Storage**

**Store the APOMINE Intermittent below 25°C until it is time to use it. Do not refrigerate or freeze.**

Store the cartridges in their original packaging in order to protect from light.

Once opened, the contents of an APOMINE Intermittent cartridge should be used within 72 hours.

**Any solution remaining after this time should be discarded.**

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

**Do not throw out the D-Mine Pen. You should keep it to use with the other cartridges.**

## **Disposal**

**If your doctor tells you to stop using this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

## **Product description**

### **What it looks like**

APOMINE Intermittent is a clear, colourless solution that comes in 3 mL glass cartridges, in packs of 5.

**Do not use APOMINE Intermittent if it looks cloudy or develops a green colour. Do not use if there are particles in the liquid.**

## **Ingredients**

APOMINE Intermittent contains:

- apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate
- sodium metabisulfite (E223)

- hydrochloride acid
- water for injections

APOMINE Intermittent does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or other azo dyes.

## **Supplier**

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd

Sydney NSW 2000

Toll Free Number: 1800 675 229

[www.pfizer.com.au](http://www.pfizer.com.au)

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APOMINE Intermittent 10 mg/mL AUST R 296520

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