

WELL LIFE COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

NAUSEA AND VOMITING

The following clinical paper states that promethazine is an effective agent for the use of PONV- "Prevention and treatment of post – operative nausea and vomiting" ([Am J Health Syst Pharm. 2005 Jun 15;62\(12\):1247-60](#)).

PURPOSE: The physiology, risk factors, and prevention and treatment of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) are discussed.

SUMMARY: Factors to consider when determining a patient's risk for PONV include sex, history of PONV, history of motion sickness, smoking status, duration of anesthesia, use of opioids, and type of surgery. Receptors that, when activated, can cause nausea or vomiting or both include dopamine type 2, serotonin type 3, histamine type 1, and muscarinic cholinergic type 1 receptors. Patients at moderate to high risk for PONV benefit from the administration of a prophylactic antiemetic agent that blocks one or more of these receptors. Effective agents include transdermal scopolamine, prochlorperazine, promethazine, droperidol, ondansetron, dolasetron, granisetron, and dexamethasone. In high-risk patients, combining two or more antiemetics with different mechanisms of action has been shown to be more effective than using a single agent. In addition to administering a prophylactic antiemetic, it is important to reduce the patient's risk by considering regional anesthesia, considering inducing and maintaining general anesthesia with protocol, ensuring good intravenous hydration, avoiding hypotension, and providing effective analgesia. If PONV occurs in the immediate post operative period, it is best treated with an antiemetic agent from a pharmacologic class different from that of the prophylactic agent.

CONCLUSION: Prophylactic antiemetic therapy for PONV is effective, but combinations of agents may be necessary for high-risk patients. Nonpharmacological strategies are also important. PMID: 15947124

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The following posting states that topical promethazine can be compounded for patients suffering from various causes of nausea.

From Medscape Pharmacists > Pharmacy Practice

Topical Phenergan – Virna Ignacio Almuete, RPh – Posted: 08/31/2004

“I have received requests from local physicians to compound phenergan cream for topical treatment of nausea. Does this product demonstrate an effective therapy for nausea and by what concentration and compounding methodology?”

Response from the Expert – Virna Ignacio Almuete, RPh

Promethazine (Phenergan) belongs to the class of antiemetics called phenothiazines. Phenothiazines are effective in the prevention and control of mild to moderate nausea and vomiting. Promethazine is available as a tablet, oral liquid, rectal suppository, and intravenous solution. Phenergan cream 2% is a product that is commercially available outside the United States. The only similar topical product available in the U.S. for the control of nausea and vomiting is the scopolamine patch, which is primarily used for motion sickness.

A recipe for compounding promethazine gel with a final concentration of 12.5mg/ml is available at the Pharmacy Times Compounding Hotline Website (see “Suggested Reading”). Topical application of medication is an effective method for drug delivery. However, the amount of medication absorbed through the skin is influenced by skin type, thickness of skin, and the area of application. Absorption can also be influenced by temperature and the addition of occlusive dressing to the area of application.

Cases of intoxication have been reported with topical administration of promethazine. With topical administration, medication is absorbed through the skin and then slowly released from the skin into the general circulation. In the case of over dosage, drug exposure can be prolonged. The benefits of topical administration of promethazine should be weighed against the variability of drug absorption through this route.”

With our state of the art compounding lab and pharmaceutical experience, we have the ability to compound promethazine as a transdermal gel.

An example of how you might prescribe follows:

Promethazine 12.5mg/ml
Transdermal gel
3ml

Apply 0.1ml to wrist Q6H PRN