Contributors

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Success at every stage of Parkinson's disease

IDEPRY

ELDEPRYL – for all stages of Parkinson's disease

A new era in the treatment of Parkinson's disease has begun. Eldepryl is the new, selective inhibitor of the enzyme responsible for dopamine breakdown in the brain. Used in conjunction with L-dopa or L-dopa/decarboxylase inhibitor combinations, Eldepryl provides the next vital step in treatment of all stages of Parkinson's disease – dopamine conservation.

The patient benefits of Eldepryl are substantial – daily L-dopa intake can be immediately cut by 20% in most cases ^{1,2} reducing unwanted side-effects and extending the useful life of L-dopa. With a notable lack of adverse effects, Eldepryl significantly reduces akinesia, smoothes out "on-off" effects, and has been shown in a recent long-term study³ to significantly prolong the evolution of the disease.

With Eldepryl, there is no complicated dosage regime to remember, simply one tablet daily, together with a 20% reduction of L-dopa on the first day of treatment, is usually all that is required.

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Presentation

White, scored, uncoated tablets 6 mm diameter containing 5 mg selegiline hydrochloride.

Indications

Eldepryl is indicated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, or symptomatic Parkinsonism, which is being treated with levodopa alone or levodopa and a peripheral decarboxylase inhibitor. Eldepryl in conjunction with levodopa treatment is particularly indicated in patients who, during maximal levodopa treatment, develop on-off symptoms or other dyskinesias.

Dosage

When given in conjunction with established levodopa therapy the initial dose of Eldepryl is 5 mg (1 tablet) in the morning. If symptoms are very severe, e.g. on-off symptoms, and little response is achieved with 1 tablet Eldepryl daily, the dose of Eldepryl can be increased to 10 mg (2 tablets) in the morning.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS, WARNINGS ETC.

Contra-indications

There are no known contra-indications for the use of Eldepryl in patients receiving levodopa therapy.

Warnings

Because Eldepryl potentiates the effects of levodopa, the side effects of levodopa might be emphasised. When Eldepryl is added to maximally tolerated levodopa treatment, involuntary movements and agitation may occur. Levodopa treatment can be reduced by an average of 30% when Eldepryl is added to the treatment. When an optimal levodopa dose has been established the side effects of the combination are fewer than for levodopa alone.

Side Effects

Hypotension and nausea have been reported as isolated symptoms associated with Eldepryl treatment. Confusion or psychosis have also been reported.

Legal Category POM.

Product Licence Number 4483/0024

Basic NHS Cost

Pack of 100 tablets, £35.10.

Reporting of Adverse Reactions

As a recently introduced product, any suspected adverse reactions should be reported to the Committee on Safety of Medicines, preferably on a yellow card.

References:

 J. Neural Transmission, 1976;43:245-251

- 2. Ibid, 1976;36:303-326
- 3. Mod. Probl. Pharmacopsychiat.,
- 1983;19:170-176 (Karger, Basel)

Whenever you prescribe L-dopa

Further information is available on request from:

Britannia Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hamilton House, 87-89 Bell Street, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7YZ.