

## PONV Antiemetic Drug Information Table

Generic name	Target receptor	Dose, route & frequency	Main side-effects	Interactions	Comments
Ondansetron	Serotonin (5-HT <sub>3</sub> ) antagonist	4mg orally, IM or IV 6 hourly	Headache, sensation of warmth or flushing, constipation, dizziness. Prolongation of QT interval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ondansetron may reduce the analgesic efficacy of tramadol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onset of action (IV) – within 30 minutes</li> <li>Duration of action 6 hours</li> <li>ECG changes including QT interval prolongation have been reported</li> <li>May be better at treating vomiting than nausea</li> </ul>
Dexamethasone	Unknown	3.3 - 6.6mg IV once daily	May cause insomnia, mood changes, slight increase blood glucose levels (not generally clinically significant), gastric irritation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The blood glucose-lowering effects of antidiabetics are opposed by corticosteroids with glucocorticoid (hyperglycaemic) activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onset of action (IV) – within 90 minutes</li> <li>Duration of action 24 hours</li> <li>No evidence of increased infection or delayed wound healing</li> <li>Induces only mild elevation in blood glucose, even in diabetic patients.</li> </ul>
Cyclizine	Histamine (H <sub>1</sub> ) antagonist, and some anti-muscarinic effect	50mg orally, IM or IV, 8 hourly	Sedation, tachycardia, hypertension, anti-muscarinic effects (dry mouth, confusion, blurred vision, urinary retention)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyclizine may have additive effects with central nervous system depressants e.g. hypnotics, tranquillisers, anaesthetics</li> <li>Because of its anticholinergic activity, cyclizine may enhance the side-effects of other anticholinergic drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onset of action – within 30 minutes</li> <li>Duration of action 8 hours</li> <li>Cyclizine should be used with caution in patients with severe heart failure and acute coronary events</li> </ul>

Generic name	Target receptor	Dose, route & frequency	Main side-effects	Interactions	Comments
Droperidol	Dopamine (D <sub>2</sub> ) antagonist	0.625mg – 1.25mg IV, 6 hourly	Sedation. Prolongation of QT interval.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both droperidol and ondansetron prolong the QT interval. The QT prolongation induced by the combination of ondansetron and droperidol is not different from that induced by each drug alone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give 30 minutes before end of surgery.</li> </ul>
Prochlorperazine	Dopamine (D <sub>2</sub> ) and alpha-adrenoceptor antagonist, weak muscarinic antagonist	12.5mg IM 6 hourly (max 37.5mg/24hours) 3-6mg buccal 12 hourly	Dystonia, tardive dyskinesia in prolonged use, lower seizure threshold, hypotension, neuroleptic malignant syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prochlorperazine may have additive effects with central nervous system depressants, respiratory depression may occur</li> <li>The hypotensive effect of most antihypertensive drugs especially alpha adrenoreceptor blocking agents may be exaggerated by prochlorperazine</li> <li>Because of its mild anticholinergic activity, prochlorperazine may enhance the side-effects of other anticholinergic drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onset of action (IM) – within 30 minutes</li> <li>Duration of action (IM) – 6 hours</li> <li>Also has some anti-muscarinic, anti-histaminergic and anti-serotonergic (5-HT<sub>2</sub>) activity</li> </ul>

Please refer to Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for full prescribing information.