

Antiemetic Guideline (PONV) for Adult Inpatients in the Perioperative Period

APFEL'S Risk Assessment			
Risk Factors	No of Factors	Risk of PONV	
Female	None	10%	LOW
Non smoker	1	20%	
History of PONV	2	40%	MEDIUM
Opioids used	3	60%	
	4	80%	HIGH

Pre-operatively: Reduce Baseline Risk. Consider prophylactic anti-emetics

- Consider regional anaesthesia
- If GA used reduce risk factors eg, inhalational agents, long acting opioids, Nitrous Oxide
- Consider propofol for induction and maintenance

- No prophylactic drug for low risk group, prescribe ondansetron PRN
- 1 - 2 drugs for medium risk or 2 or more for high risk patients
- High Risk** - double or triple prophylaxis from different classes. Either Granisetron 1mg at induction or Ondansetron 4mg +/- Dexamethasone 3.3 to 6.6mg IV at induction, +/- Droperidol 0.625 - 1.25mg IV (caution regarding QT prolongation interactions).

- Regular ongoing treatment Ondansetron 4mg three times daily iv for up to 5 days.

Post-operative: Treatment of Nausea and Vomiting

Effective? Yes No

Continue

1st Line - Ondansetron 4mg IV/IM
2nd Line - Cyclizine 25 - 50mg IV/IM
3rd Line - Dexamethasone 3.3 to 6.6mg IV if not already given/contraindicated.
Prochlorperazine 12.5mg IM, 10-20mg PO 8 hourly, 3 - 6mg buccal bd
4th Line - Droperidol 0.625 - 1.25mg IV (caution regarding QT prolongation interactions).

Effective? Yes No

Continue

- Call patients list anaesthetist, if unavailable;
- Call Acute Pain/Clinical Nurse specialists S Anderson/L Steele DECT 6224/Pg 021, if unavailable;
- Call ACCU Pg 003 out-of-hours.

Tips

- Some patients will require regular antiemetics using 2 or more drugs.
- Ondansetron 4mg IV/IM repeated 8 hourly.
- Prochlorperazine 12.5mg IM, 10-20mg PO 8 hourly, 3-6mg buccal bd.
- Cyclizine, 50mg IV/IM/PO 8 hourly (25mg in elderly).
- Repetition of the same antiemetic within 6 hours may not be effective - choose another drug.
- Dexamethasone dose should not be repeated.
- Cyclizine, droperidol - better antinausea profile.
- Ondansetron - better antiemetic.
- Granisetron - longer acting alternative to Ondansetron
- Droperidol - good for opioid induced (PCA) N & V.

Approved by: C Slorach/S Anderson/L Steele/J Murphy. Jun 2022. Review date: Jun 2027