## VI.2 Elements for a Public Summary

### *VI.2.1 Overview of disease epidemiology*

Nausea (feeling sick) can be a common symptom, but it may be due to a number of different causes. Metoclopramide can be used to prevent nausea and vomiting (being sick) associated with radiotherapy or medicines for cancer. Depending on the used treatment regimen, up to 90 % of radiotherapy or cancer medicine treated patients may experience nausea. Metoclopramide is also used to treat nausea and vomiting which may occur with a migraine. It can also be taken with oral painkillers in case of migraine to help painkillers work more effectively. Approximately 50 % of patients experience nausea during migraine attacks.

### *VI.2.2 Summary of treatment benefits*

Metoclopramide is a medicine that acts as an antiemetic (a medicine used to relieve nausea and vomiting) by acting on the part of the brain that triggers the sensation of sickness. It also stimulates the movement of the stomach and upper part of the bowel, speeding passage through the gut. Depending on the severity of nausea and vomiting, medical treatment may be required for relieving symptoms and metoclopramide can be used as a treatment option. Metoclopramide has been effective in preventing or treating nausea and vomiting that may result from anticancer medicines or radiation treatment, or an attack of migraine.

### *VI.2.3 Unknowns relating to treatment benefits*

Not applicable.

### *VI.2.4 Summary of safety concerns*

**Important identified risks**

| Risk | What is known | Preventability |
|---|---|---|
| Very high blood pressure (Severe hypertensive events) | Metoclopramide may cause very high blood pressure in patients with pheochromocytoma. Pheochromocytoma is a rare tumour of the adrenal gland which produces excess amounts of hormones such as adrenaline and noradrenaline. | Metoclopramide must not be used in patients with confirmed or suspected pheochromocytoma. |
| Uncontrollable movements (Increased extrapyramidal reactions) | Uncontrollable movements (often involving head or neck) may occur. These may occur particularly in children or young adults and/or when high doses are used. These signs usually occur at the beginning of treatment and may even occur after one single administration. These movements will stop when treated appropriately. | Metoclopramide must not be used in patients with Parkinson's disease or children less than 1 year of age due to an increased risk of uncontrollable movements.<br>Treatment must be stopped and doctor must be straight away contacted if patient experiences these signs while having metoclopramide.<br>The maximum recommended treatment duration of metoclopramide is 5 days. |

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| Involuntary muscle spasms (Tardive dyskinesia) | Metoclopramide may cause involuntary muscle spasms (tardive dyskinesia) after prolonged use, particularly in | Metoclopramide must not be used in patients who have ever had involuntary muscle spasms (tardive dyskinesia), when |

| **Risk** | **What is known** | **Preventability** |
|---|---|---|
| | elderly patients. | treated with a medicine.<br>Treatment must be stopped and doctor must be straight away contacted if patient experiences these signs while having metoclopramide.<br>The maximum recommended treatment duration of metoclopramide is 5 days. |
| Allergic reactions (Hypersensitivity reactions) | Like other drugs, also metoclopramide may cause allergic reactions such as itching or skin rashes. In severe allergic reactions symptoms may include swelling of the face, lips or throat and difficulty in breathing. | Patients who are known to be allergic to metoclopramide or any of the other ingredients of the product must not take Metoclopramide Orion.<br>If patient experiences allergic reactions while taking Metoclopramide Orion, treatment must be stopped and doctor must be straight away contacted. |
| Worsening of existing gastrointestinal disorders | If patient has existing gastrointestinal disorders such as bleeding, obstruction or a tear in stomach or gut, use of metoclopramide use may worsen these conditions. | Metoclopramide must not be taken if patient has bleeding, obstruction or a tear in stomach or gut. |
| Raised levels of a hormone called prolactin in blood (Hyperprolactinemia) | Metoclopramide may cause raised levels of a hormone called prolactin in blood. Raised levels of prolactin in blood may cause milk production in men, and women who are not breast-feeding. Also abnormal development of breasts and irregular periods may occur. | Doctor should be consulted if patient experiences these symptoms. |
| Abnormal blood pigment levels (Methaemoglobinaemia) | Abnormal blood pigment levels (Methaemoglobinaemia) have been reported with metoclopramide. | Metoclopramide must not be taken if patient has ever had methaemoglobinemia or NADH cytochrome-b5 deficiency.<br>Doctor may perform blood tests to check blood pigment levels.<br>In cases of methaemoglobinemia, the treatment must be immediately and permanently stopped. |
| Decreased effect when used | Concomitant treatment of | Metoclopramide should not be |

| Risk | What is known | Preventability |
|---|---|---|
| concomitantly with levodopa and/or anticholinergic agents | metoclopramide with levodopa or other medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease and/or anticholinergics (medicines used to relieve stomach cramps or spasms) inhibits the effects of both medications. | used for patients taking levodopa or other medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease.<br>Doctor should be informed if patient is taking anticholinergics. |

**Important potential risks**

| Risk | What is known (Including reason why it is considered a potential risk) |
|---|---|
| Seizure risk in epileptics | Metoclopramide must not be used in patients with epilepsy because metoclopramide may increase the risk of seizures. |
| A combination of symptoms such as high fever, high blood pressure, convulsions, sweating and production of saliva (Neuroleptic malignant syndrome) | Condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome has been reported with metoclopramide. Symptoms of neuroleptic malignant syndrome include high fever, high blood pressure, convulsions, sweating, production of saliva. Treatment must be stopped and doctor must be contacted straight away if patient experiences these signs while having metoclopramide. |

### *VI.2.5 Summary of risk minimisation measures by safety concern*

All medicines have a Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) which provides physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals with details on how to use the medicine, the risks and recommendations for minimising them. An abbreviated version of this in lay language is provided in the form of the package leaflet (PL). The measures in these documents are known as routine risk minimisation measures.

The Summary of Product Characteristics and the Package leaflet for Metoclopramide Orion can be found in the national authority's web page.

This medicine has no additional risk minimisation measures.

### *VI.2.6 Planned post authorisation development plan*

Not applicable.

### *VI.2.7 Summary of changes to the Risk Management Plan over time*

Not applicable.