

Medication: Haloperidol	PDN: 6995.01	Last Updated: May 25 2015	PMD: Andrew Travers"	PDC: Marty Warren*	Page 1 of 2
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HALOPERIDOL

For palliative care use only

1.0 Classification

- Antipsychotic and antiemetic

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Non-selectively binds to various dopamine and adrenergic receptors in the brain which causes interference with neurotransmission and hormone release affecting wakefulness, vasomotor tone and emesis.

3.0 Indications

- In the palliative care population for:
 - Delirium
 - Nausea and vomiting secondary to bowel obstruction

4.0 Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Severe CNS depression

5.0 Precautions

- Use with caution in patients with cardiovascular disease as it may cause orthostatic hypotension
- Use with caution in patients with known seizure disorder as it may lower the seizure threshold
- Use with caution with patients with known hepatic or renal impairment

6.0 Route

- May be given Subcut

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- Nausea and vomiting: 0.5-1.0 mg Subcut
- Delirium: (Mild) 0.5-1.0 mg Subcut; (Moderate) 2.0-2.5 mg Subcut; (Severe) 2.5-5.0 mg Subcut

Pediatric

- Not recommended for use in patients under the age of 18 unless specifically identified to be used in their written palliative care plan or special patient protocol.

8.0 Supplied

- 5 mg in 1 ml vial

9.0 May Be Given By

- ACP/CCP (after consultation with OLMC)

10.0 Adverse effects

- Prolonged QT associated with torsades des pointes
- Extrapyramidal symptoms such as dystonia, muscle rigidity, etc.
 - If signs of extrapyramidal reaction appear, consult CSD/OLMC consider administering 25 mg IV/Subcut diphenhydramine

11.0 Special notes

- Due to this medications risks of negative cardiac events it is used only in the palliative setting
- Haloperidol may be used as a second line agent in the setting of other causes of nausea and vomiting
- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

12.0 References

- Palliative Care Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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