SEVERN HOSPICE

GP Prescribing information for Parecoxib (Dynastat®) 40mg/2ml injection in palliative care pain management (ref N Ireland MacMillan Palliative Care resource for pharmacists 2019[1])

Parecoxib is used as an adjuvant analgesic in palliative care when a patient is no longer able to swallow.

The GP will not be asked to change the dose of parecoxib without written or verbal communication from the Hospice consultant/specialist. Any changes to the dose of parecoxib will be communicated to the GP via a written letter in a timely manner.

The patient will continue to be seen by the palliative care nursing team in the community.

Parecoxib is an injectable COX-2 inhibitor that directly targets COX-2 enzyme responsible for pain and inflammation. It has a reduced incidence of gastro-intestinal side effects compared to traditional non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as diclofenac and ketorolac.

It is the only COX-2 inhibitor which can be given via a syringe pump in the community setting and is used for palliative care patients who fail to respond well to morphine or other μ-opioid receptor agonists, or to reduce the amount of opioid required for pain relief.

Parecoxib must **only** be initiated and all dose alterations done by a hospice consultant/specialist who will also take into account all other medicines the patient is on.

It is intended that this use of parecoxib should also reduce unplanned hospital admissions from poorly controlled cancer pain in palliative care patients.

The duration of analgesia from single doses ranges from 6 to over 12 hours, with clinically meaningful analgesia demonstrated in 23-39 minutes[1].

Licensed Indication

This is an off-licence use of a licensed medicine commonly used in palliative care. This information is provided to support the GP with the on-going care of the patient.

Your patient has been started on parecoxib 40mg/2ml for pain management by the consultant/specialist at Severn Hospice, who is fully conversant with its pharmacology

Please do NOT alter the dose of parecoxib without agreement from the consultant/specialist responsible for the patient's pain management.

Use in palliative care (off label use)

Cancer pain associated with inflammation e.g. bony metastases or soft tissue infiltration, musculoskeletal pain. Usually administered via subcutaneous injection (SC) and/or continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI) via syringe pump

NB: Information is taken from N Ireland MacMillan Palliative Care resource for pharmacists 2019[1], and Palliative Care Formulary (PCF6)

Licensed indications and drug information available on www.medicines.org.uk

Dosage and administration

The hospice consultant/specialist will liaise with the patient's GP to discuss the patient's need for parecoxib and the supported continued prescribing. Please do NOT alter the dose of parecoxib or the frequency of PRN doses without agreement from the consultant/specialist responsible for the patient's pain management

Dose and Route of Administration

The usual maximum dose of parecoxib in 24 hours (**including PRN doses**) is 80mg but occasionally palliative medicine specialists may recommend higher doses.

Method of administration

1) Reconstitute the 40mg vial with 2ml of sodium chloride 0.9%. (Final concentration = 20mg/ml)
   Do not use water for injection as the resulting solution is not isotonic
2) For use as a continuous subcutaneous infusion (CSCI) via a syringe pump, further dilute with sodium chloride 0.9% to the required volume for the syringe driver.

Compatibility in Syringe Driver

- Parecoxib should not be mixed with any other drugs in a syringe pump - a separate syringe pump is required for parecoxib.
- Differences in pH between parecoxib and most other drugs may lead to incompatibilities
- Parecoxib has been associated with skin reactions at the site of administration. Regularly monitor the infusion site. If a skin reaction occurs dilute the parecoxib to a greater volume with sodium chloride 0.9% or change the site of administration.

Precautions and Contra-indications

Precautions (see BNF)

The Severn Hospice specialist initiating parecoxib will have taken the following into account before prescribing parecoxib.

- Parecoxib is started at a lower dose, and has a reduced maximum dose in elderly patients weighing less than 50kg or patients with moderate hepatic impairment
- Renal impairment
- Those at risk of developing upper GI complications
- Patients with significant cardiovascular risks
- Dehydrated patients; rehydrate first and then start therapy with parecoxib.

Contraindications (see BNF)

The Severn Hospice specialist initiating parecoxib will have taken all contraindications into account before prescribing parecoxib.

- Hypersensitivity to parecoxib, other NSAID's or a history of previous serious allergic drug reaction of any type
- Active peptic ulceration or GI bleeding
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Established ischaemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, cerebrovascular disease or heart failure
  The concomitant use of parecoxib with other non-aspirin NSAIDs should be avoided

Drug Interactions

- Parecoxib has an opioid sparing effect. When administered with opioids, a lower dose of opioid may subsequently be used to achieve the same level of analgesia
- The plasma concentration of parecoxib may be increased by fluconazole indicating that the dose of parecoxib may need to be reduced in patients receiving concomitant fluconazole.
- Care with concurrent dexamethasone as higher doses are related to GI problems.
- Parecoxib should not be mixed with any other drugs in a syringe driver. Differences in pH between parecoxib and most other drugs may lead to incompatibilities

Adverse Effects (see BNF)

- Nausea, Dyspepsia, Hypokalaemia
- Parecoxib has been associated with facial skin blistering, and skin reactions at the site of administration.
- Serious skin reactions have been reported in patients receiving parecoxib, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome. Patients should be monitored for and advised to report any skin reactions that occur.

Parecoxib preparations available:
Parecoxib (Dynastat ®) 40mg Powder x 10 vials
Parecoxib (Dynastat ®) 40mg Powder with Solvent for Injection x 5 vials
Prescribing information: Ensure sufficient supply prescribed to cover use via CSCI and SC PRN. Prescribe suitable quantity of sodium chloride 0.9% as diluent. Community pharmacies will not routinely stock parecoxib. May take 1-2 days to obtain supply for patients in community.

Further information

This information is not inclusive of all prescribing information and potential adverse effects. Please refer to the latest full prescribing data SPC available at www.medicines.org.uk, the BNF or Palliative or website www.book.pallcare.info

And the N Ireland MacMillan Palliative Care resource for pharmacists 2019[1]
http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/Macmillan%20Palliative%20Pharmacy%20Resource%20Folder%202019.pdf

Communication

BACK-UP ADVICE AND SUPPORT

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