

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
Opiates 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
1. No prophylactic drug for low risk group, prescribe ondansetron PRN
 2. 1 - 2 drugs for medium risk or 2 or more for high risk patients
 3. **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

Yes

Effective?

No

Continue

1st Line - Ondansetron 4mg IV/IM
2nd 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
3rd Line - Cyclizine 25 - 50mg IV/IM
4th Line - Droperidol 0.625 - 1.25mg IV (caution regarding QT prolongation interactions).

Yes

Effective?

No

Continue

1. Call patients list anaesthetist, if unavailable;
2. Call Pain Team: M. Herron DECT 6224/Pg 021, if unavailable;
3. 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 anti-nausea profile.
- Ondansetron - better antiemetic.
- Granisetron - longer acting alternative to Ondansetron
- Droperidol - good for opioid induced (PCA) N & V.