PARKINSON'S LORE

Titrating the dose can give you the power to relieve the 'on-off' syndrome

Conventional wisdom suggested that the 'on-off' syndrome was an unalterable feature of long-term levodopa therapy. Madopar 62.5 means that this now need not always be the case. By titrating the dose and administering more frequent, smaller doses the patient with 'on-off' syndrome and other symptoms may now obtain relief.[1]

For many patients

MADOPAR 62.5
levodopa plus benserazide

adds years to life—adds life to years

Presentation Madopar contains a combination of levodopa and the decarboxylase inhibitor benserazide in the ratio of 4:1. Madopar 62.5 capsules containing 50mg levodopa and 12.5mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 12.5mg of the base). Madopar 125 capsules containing 100mg levodopa and 25mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 25mg of the base). Madopar 250 capsules containing 200mg levodopa and 50mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 50mg of the base). **Indications** Parkinsonism—idiopathic, post-encephalitic. **Dosage** Dosage is variable and the data sheet should be consulted for full details. The effective daily dose usually lies between four and eight capsules of Madopar 125 (two to four capsules of Madopar 250) daily in divided doses, most patients requiring no more than six capsules of Madopar 125 daily. In some elderly patients initial treatment with one capsule of Madopar 62.5 once or twice daily increasing by one capsule every third or fourth day, may suffice. Patients who experience fluctuations in response may also benefit from administration of smaller, more frequent doses using Madopar 62.5. **Contra-indications** Narrow-angle glaucoma, severe psychoneuroses or psychoses. Pregnancy. Patients under 25 years. It should not be given in conjunction with monoamine oxidase inhibitors or within two weeks of their withdrawal. Patients who have a history of, or who may be suffering from, a malignant melanoma. **Precautions** Drugs which interfere with central amine mechanisms should be avoided. Endocrine, renal, pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, hepatic disorder, peptic ulcer, osteoporosis, sympathomimetic drugs, antihypertensive drugs. Patients who improve on Madopar therapy should be advised to resume normal activities gradually as rapid mobilisation may increase the risk of injury. **Side-effects** Nausea and vomiting, cardiovascular disturbances, psychiatric disturbances, involuntary movements. **Package Quantities** Madopar 62.5 capsules, Madopar 125 capsules and Madopar 250 capsules in packings of 100. **Licence Numbers** 0031/0125 (Madopar 62.5 capsules)/0031/0073 (Madopar 125 capsules)/0031/0074 (Madopar 250 capsules). **Basic NHS Cost** Madopar capsules 62.5 £5.41 per 100. Madopar capsules 125 £9.76 per 100. Madopar capsules 250 £17.47 per 100.

Reference 1. Med et Hyg (Genève), 1981, 39, 3832.

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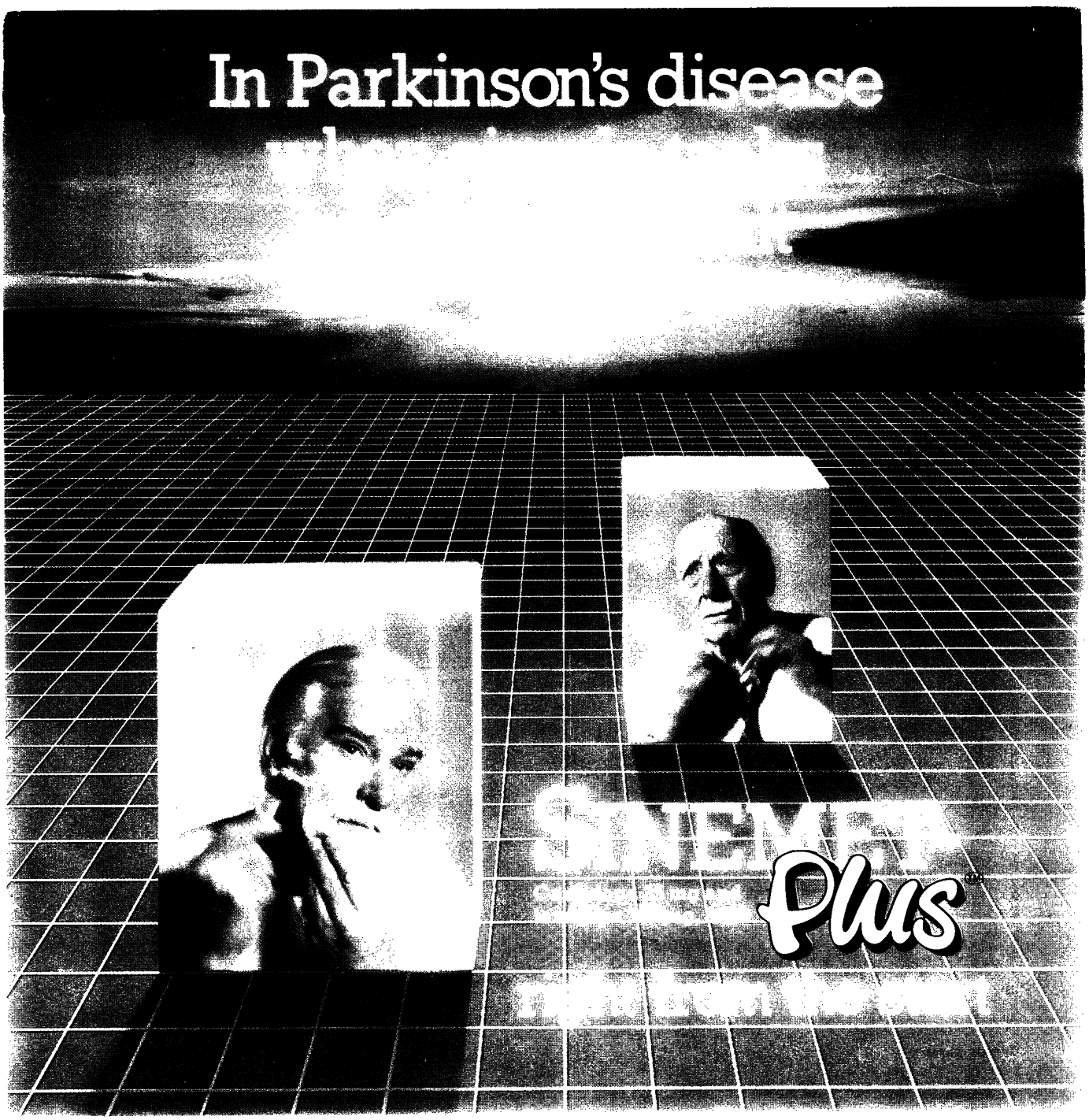
Madopar is a trade mark

In Parkinson's disease



ABRIDGED PRODUCT INFORMATION
Full prescribing information is available on request and should be consulted before prescribing.
INDICATIONS Parkinson's disease and syndrome.
DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION Dosage variable. *Patients not receiving levodopa* Usually 1 tablet of 'Sinemet-Plus' three times a day. Adjust as necessary. Maximum daily dose is 8 tablets. If more levodopa required, substitute 'Sinemet'-275, 1 tablet three or four times a day. If further titration needed, increase 'Sinemet'-275 to maximum 8 tablets a day. *Patients receiving levodopa* Discontinue levodopa at least twelve hours (24 hours for slow-release preparations) before starting 'Sinemet.' Dose of 'Sinemet' approximately 20% of previous daily dosage of levodopa. Usual starting dose 'Sinemet'-275 1 tablet three or four times a day. Patients requiring less than 1,500 mg levodopa a day start with 'Sinemet-Plus' 1 tablet three or four times a day. Maximum is 8 tablets a day.
CONTRA-INDICATIONS Narrow-angle glaucoma; known hypersensitivity. Do not use in patients with history of melanoma or with suspicious undiagnosed skin lesions. Discontinue MAO inhibitors at least two weeks before starting 'Sinemet.'
PREGNANCY AND LACTATION Not recommended in lactating mothers. Use in women of childbearing potential requires that anticipated benefits be weighed against possible hazards should pregnancy occur.
PRECAUTIONS Not recommended for drug-induced Parkinsonism. Use cautiously in patients with severe cardiovascular or pulmonary disease, bronchial asthma, renal, hepatic, endocrine disease, psychoses, chronic wide-angle glaucoma, with a history of myocardial infarction; and when receiving antihypertensives (adjust dosage if necessary). Monitor carefully for mental changes, depression with suicidal tendencies, and other serious antisocial behaviour. Observe carefully patients with history of severe involuntary movements or psychoses when 'Sinemet' substituted for levodopa. GI haemorrhage may occur in patients with history of peptic ulcer. If general anaesthesia is required, 'Sinemet' may be continued whilst patient permitted oral intake. Usual daily dosage may be given when oral medication is possible. Transient abnormalities in renal function tests, liver function tests, and protein-bound iodine may occur without evidence of disease. Not recommended for children under 18 years of age.
SIDE EFFECTS Choreiform, dystonic, and other involuntary movements are most common. Other mental changes are less common. Less frequent are cardiovascular irregularities, the 'on-off' phenomenon, GI intolerance, and dizziness. Rarely, GI bleeding, duodenal ulcer, hypertension, phlebitis, leucopenia, and agranulocytosis. Positive Coombs test reported but haemolytic anaemia extremely rare. Other side effects include psychiatric, neurological, GI, dermatological, respiratory, urogenital, special senses, hot flushes, weight gain or loss, and abnormalities in laboratory tests.
BASIC NHS COST 'Sinemet-Plus' (25 mg carbidopa/100 mg levodopa BP) Tablets £11.64 per 100 pack; Sinemet®-275 (25 mg carbidopa/250 mg levodopa BP) Tablets £17.87 per 100 pack; Sinemet®-110 (10 mg carbidopa/100 mg levodopa BP) Tablets £8.55 per 100 pack.
PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS 'Sinemet-Plus,' 0025/0150 'Sinemet'-275, 0025/0085 'Sinemet'-110, 0025/0084
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