**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 14.25mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 12.5mg of the base) Madopar 125 capsules containing 100mg levodopa and 28.5mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 25mg of the base) Madopar 250 capsules containing 200mg levodopa and 57mg benserazide hydrochloride (equivalent to 50mg of the base).

**Indications**
Parkinsonism — idiopathic; postencephalitic

**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. It should not be given in conjunction with monoamine oxidase inhibitors or within two weeks of their withdrawal, to patients under 25 years of age, to pregnant women, or to 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.

**Packings**
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

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SPECIALTY FELLOWSHIP IN SURGICAL NEUROLOGY FRCSEd (SN)

A diet of the Specialty Fellowship Examination in Surgical Neurology will be held on 18 September 1984. Surgeons working in the specialty of Surgical Neurology who wish to enter for the Examination may obtain a copy of the Regulations and application form from the Examinations Secretary, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW.

Candidates who should normally hold a Diploma of Fellowship of a Surgical College or an equivalent Diploma are required to have three years’ post-Fellowship experience in Surgical Neurology of which one year must normally have been in an approved centre in the UK. Candidates must submit written evidence of their experience in the specialty including their operative experience. Candidates should note that the format of the Examination has been changed so that there are no longer separate orals in neuroanatomy, neuropathology, neurochemistry and neuroradiology. These subjects are however still examined in depth as part of orals in operative surgery, investigation and non-operative management.

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