MSD
MERCK SHARP & DOHME

SERVICE TO NEUROSCIENCE
Merck Sharp and Dohme Limited
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 9BU

SINEMET®
(carbidopa and levodopa, MSD)

THROUGHOUT PARKINSON'S DISEASE

For abridged product information, see overleaf

3-87 SEM.86.GB.1861.J

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(carbidopa and levodopa, MSD)

ABRIDGED PRODUCT INFORMATION
Full prescribing information is available 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 12 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 a 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 while 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.
®denotes registered trademark. ™denotes trademark.
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