



DOMPERIDONE FOR INCREASING BREAST MILK

Domperidone is a prescription medicine generally used for nausea and vomiting. However, in your case it is used to increase breast milk supply.

How does it work?

Domperidone increases the level of the hormone prolactin which is involved in breast milk production. Expressing or breastfeeding frequently, while taking domperidone, will help increase your breast milk supply.

When is it appropriate to use domperidone?

Taking domperidone to increase breast milk supply should only be done under medical supervision.

Domperidone may be used when breast milk supply is low and when extra breastfeeding or expressing are not enough to increase milk supply. It is rarely used before seven days after birth.

It may be useful for mothers of premature babies, very sick newborns or adopting mothers as keeping up a milk supply can be difficult for some of these mothers.

When should domperidone not be used?

Domperidone should not be used if women are taking certain (but not all) medicines such as:

- antibiotics
- antifungals
- heart medicines
- some mood medicines such as antidepressants/antipsychotic medicines.

Also, domperidone may not be appropriate if women have a history of some particular medical problems, or have been sensitive to domperidone in the past. The doctor will discuss if this medicine is right for you.

If you start any new medication, it is important you tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking domperidone.

What is the usual dosage?

To increase breast milk production, you will use 10mg of domperidone (one tablet) three times a day until breast milk supply is well established. This may take several weeks.

Occasionally, your lactation consultant or doctor may increase the dose to 20mg (two tablets) three times a day. The dose may vary depending on your milk supply, but you should not have more than 60mg (six tablets) in one day.

Once milk supply is well established, you can decrease the dose, e.g. 10 mg (one tablet) two times a day for one week, before stopping the medicine altogether.

How long does it take to work?

It may take a week before you notice an increase in breast milk supply and two to four weeks to achieve the maximum effect. It is important to keep breastfeeding or expressing during this time. Keep in touch with your breastfeeding specialist, such as your lactation consultant, doctor, or maternal and child health nurse, for ongoing advice.

How long is the treatment for?

The length of treatment depends on your response to the medicine. You and your doctor will decide how long you use domperidone.

What are the side effects?

Some reported side effects include headache (most common), abdominal pain, dry mouth, rash and trouble sleeping. Other side effects such as restlessness and muscle spasm may occur, but they are very rare. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you experience anything unusual or if you feel unwell.

Very small amounts of domperidone pass into breast milk so it is very unlikely that your baby will have side effects from the medicine. No side effects have been reported in infants of breastfeeding mothers using domperidone.

This fact sheet does not include information about all known side effects. If you would like to know more about the side effects, ask your local pharmacist for the *Domperidone Consumer Medicine Information* (manufacturer's information).

For more information and advice

Medicines Information Service

Pharmacy Department
Level 1, Royal Women's Hospital
20 Flemington Road
Parkville VIC 3052

Hours: 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday
T: (03) 8345 3190
E: drug.information@thewomens.org.au