Hospice Palliative Care

Tip of the Month – October 2015



METHOTRIMEPRAZINE (NOZINAN): Uses in Palliative Care

METHOTRIMEPRAZINE is a neuroleptic agent that has **analgesic**, **anti-emetic**, **antihistamine**, **anti-adrenergic** and **sedative** activity.

USE of METHOTRIMEPRAZINE:

- **↓ Licensed Use:** For sedation, end of life delirium, restlessness or agitation and as an adjunct to analgesia when some sedation may be desirable or beneficial to the patient.
- **Unlicensed Use:** Nausea and vomiting. When first line medications have proven less than effective, methotrimeprazine has a broad action.

CARE CONSIDERATIONS will depend on goals of care and indication for use:

- Watch for excessive drowsiness
- Monitor for postural hypotension
- Inflammatory reactions at injection site
- The injectable preparation contains sodium sulfite which may cause an allergic reaction

DOSAGE:

- **♣ For Mild Delirium:** 5-12.5 mg PO or s/c q12hr AND 5-12.5 mg PO or s/c q1hr PRN
- **♣ For Moderate Delirium:** 12.5 mg PO or s/c q 8-12hr AND 12.5 mg PO or s/c q1hr PRN
- ♣ For Severe Delirium: 25 mg s/c stat and may be repeated q30 minutes up to 3-4 times
- ♣ For Nausea & Vomiting: 2-5 g PO or s/c BID or TID and titrating up to a maximum of 12.5 mg s/c or PO

Doses may vary according to guideline used

Source: - Pereira JL, Associates. The Pallium Palliative Pocketbook: a peer-reviewed, referenced resource. 1st Cdn ed. Edmonton, Canada: Pallium Canada; 2008. 3rd Printing 2013