What MOVAPO PEN is used for

MOVAPO PEN contains apomorphine which belongs to a group of medicines called dopaminergic compounds. Apomorphine is used in the treatment of Parkinson’s disease to reduce the number and severity of bouts of freezing and stiffness (or “off” periods). This medicine works by acting on dopamine receptors. These receptors help control movement by the body.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you. Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive. This medicine is available only with a doctor’s prescription.

Before you use MOVAPO PEN

When you must not use it

Do not use MOVAPO PEN if you have an allergy to:
- any medicine containing apomorphine or sodium metabisulfite
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- certain types of painkillers such as morphine or other opioid analgesics

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:
- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

Do not use this medicine if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:
- certain forms of dementia e.g. Alzheimer’s Disease
- severe kidney or liver disease
- problems with circulation of blood in the brain (cerebrovascular disease)
- breathing problems (respiratory depression).

Do not give this medicine to a child under the age of 18 years.

How to use MOVAPO PEN

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for help.

Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist can provide further instructions on how to use MOVAPO PEN. The full instructions for using MOVAPO PEN are also provided in the leaflet in the pack.

Do not use MOVAPO PEN if the solution has turned green or if the solution is cloudy or you can see particles in it.

How much to use

You will usually be in hospital when you start using MOVAPO PEN. It is recommended that you are given an anti-nausea drug (domperidone) and that you stop all your other anti-Parkinsonian medication before you start using MOVAPO. This medicine is given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously), usually into your lower abdomen or outer thigh. It is injected several times a day.

It is advisable to change the site of injection every time you insert the needle to avoid getting lumps under the skin. MOVAPO PEN is a cartridge contained in a pen injector. The product is for individual patient use only.

Instructions for how to use the MOVAPO PEN are provided at the end of this leaflet. You and/or your carers will be trained by hospital staff to recognise when and how to give the injections.

If you use too much (overdose)

Immediately notify your doctor or nurse, or if you are not in hospital, telephone the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital. If you think that you or anyone else may have used too much MOVAPO PEN, Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include severe nausea and vomiting, slow or troubled breathing, restlessness, hallucinations or unconsciousness.

While you are using MOVAPO PEN

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are using MOVAPO PEN. Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using this medicine.

If you plan to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are using this medicine. It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

If you become pregnant while using this medicine, tell your doctor immediately. Keep all of your doctor’s appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Things you must not do

Do not use MOVAPO PEN to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.
Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how MOVAPo PEN affects you.

This medicine may cause drowsiness, sudden onset of sleepiness, dizziness or light-headedness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Side effects

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using MOVAPo PEN.

MOVAPo PEN helps most people with Parkinson’s disease, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- nausea or vomiting particularly when starting MOVAPo PEN
- lumps under the skin, rashes or ulcers at the site of injection which are sore, troublesome and may be red and itchy.
- drowsiness or suddenly falling asleep
- confusion
- dizziness or light-headedness when standing up, fainting
- unpleasant metallic taste, sore mouth
- runny nose
- watery eyes
- reduced facial hair growth
- spontaneous penile erection
- weight loss
- yawning

The above list includes side effects which are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- increased involuntary movements or increased shakiness during ‘on’ periods
- aggression, agitation
- pale yellow skin, weakness or breathlessness
- bleeding or bruising
- inability to resist the impulse, drive or temptation to perform an action that could be harmful to you or others, which may include:
  - decreased or increased sexual arousal
  - increased need to gamble
  - compulsive eating, shopping or medication use

The above list includes severe side effects that may require medical attention. Severe side effects are rare or uncommon.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing

- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there)

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some people. Some of these side effects can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress:

- increase in some white blood cells
- high prolactin level in blood.

After using MOVAPo PEN

Storage

Keep your pens in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Keep the container in the outer carton to protect from light. Store at the same conditions after opening and between withdrawals.

When you start using a new MOVAPo PEN, it can be used for up to 48 hours. Do not re-use your MOVAPo PEN after this time. Use a new Pen.

Do not store MOVAPo PEN or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

To dispose of your pens safely, always remove the needle from the Pen before discarding it in a “Sharps” container.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist where you can dispose of the container when it is full.

If your doctor tells you to stop using this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

If the pen is completely empty you may dispose of it in your household waste.

Product description

What it looks like

MOVAPo PEN is supplied as a disposable multiple dose pen injector system incorporating a clear glass cartridge containing a clear solution for injection. Each glass cartridge contains 3 mL of solution for injection. Each MOVAPo PEN pack contains 5 disposable pens.

Ingredients

MOVAPo PEN contains 30 mg of apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate in 3 mL (10 mg/mL).

MOVAPo PEN also contains:

- sodium metabisulfite
- water for injections
- may contain hydrochloric acid for pH adjustment

MOVAPo PEN does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Supplier

STADA Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd
PO Box 343, 40-42 Scott Street, Dandenong, VIC 3175, Australia

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Instructions for using MOVAPo PEN

Before using MOVAPo PEN, study the diagram below and your pen to familiarise yourself with your medicine:

1) (Dosage site)
2) Needle in sealed unit containing:
3) Outer sleeve of Pen
4) Membrane
5) Needle protector
6) Needle
7) Arrow showing the dosage selected
8) Numbers indicating the dose per injection (1-50mg)
9) Graduations (in mg) on the cartridge showing total amount of apomorphine in the Pen.

IMPORTANT: Do not pull the red capped dosage dial (see 1) before you have set the dosage (see ‘Selecting the correct dosage’).

Attaching the needle

(a) Before using MOVAPo PEN you will need some surgical wipes and one needle in its protective cone (see 2).
(b) Take the Pen out of its box and remove the outer sleeve (see 3).
(c) Wipe the membrane of the Pen (see 4) with a surgical wipe.
(d) Peel off the paper from the needle cone (see 2).
(e) It is important to bring the needle to the Pen in a straight line, as shown below. If the needle is...
presented at an angle it may cause the Pen to leak.

(f) Screw the cone (see 2) clockwise onto the membrane until it is tight. This securely attaches the needle.

(g) Remove the protective cone (see 5), but do not throw it away. Do not remove the needle protector (see 6) at this stage.

(h) Replace the Pen’s outer sleeve (see 3).

**Selecting the correct dose**

(i) Press the red capped dosage dial (see 1) and whilst holding it down, turn the dial clockwise until the arrow points to the dose your doctor chose for you (see 7&8). Release the downward pressure on the red capped dial. The dose is now set and you do not need to redial for subsequent injections.

(Important: If you pass your prescribed dose while turning the dial, just continue pressing and turning in the same direction until the arrow points to the dose your doctor chose for you. Never pull and turn the red capped dosage dial at the same time.)

If your dose is 1 mg, start by emptying a 1 mg dose onto a paper tissue and discarding it. This is called ‘priming’ and is important because it ensures you get a full dose the first time you use your Pen. Then, set the dose you require for injection and inject it in the usual way (see “Injecting”). If the first dose required is more than 1 mg, you do not need to prime the Pen.

**Injecting**

(j) Once you have set the dose, gently pull out the red capped dosage dial as far as it will go. Check the red scale on the plunger (see 9) and inject only if the line that is just visible matches the intended dose.

(k) Using a surgical wipe, clean the area of skin where you plan to inject the medicine and around it.

(l) Remove the Pen’s outer sleeve (see 3).

(m) Remove the needle protector (see 6).

(n) Insert the needle (see 10) into the skin as shown by your doctor.

(o) To inject, press the red capped dosage dial (see 1) down as far as it will go, using your thumb if possible. Once the red capped dosage dial is fully depressed, count to three before withdrawing the needle.

(p) Replace the protective cone (see 5) onto the used needle and push gently into place. Once secure, turn the needle anti-clockwise to unscrew it. Keep the needle in its protective cone and discard it in a “Sharps” container.

**Preparing for the next injection**

(q) Remove the outer sleeve of the Pen and check there is enough apomorphine left in the cartridge for your next injection. If there is, put a new needle in place in the same way as before.

(r) If there is not enough apomorphine left for another injection, prepare another pen.

(s) Finally, replace the outer sleeve of your Pen.