

PALLIATIVE MEDS INFO NEWSLETTER

Volume (3) Issue (2) July 2017

The Palliative Meds Info Service is a medicines information service which provides advice by telephone and email on all aspects of medicines use in palliative care. Contact us at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services on 01 4912578 or email palliativemedinfo@olh.ie. We also provide medicines information on our webpage available from the OLH&CS website www.olh.ie.



In this newsletter we would like to share some more of our interesting enquiries with you and highlight updates to documents available on our webpage. Enjoy!

The use of oral glycopyrronium in palliative care

There is limited information on the use of oral glycopyrronium in palliative care. Despite the poor oral bioavailability of oral glycopyrronium, it has been used in the management of drooling in palliative care. No information has been found to support the administration of oral glycopyrronium to treat excessive respiratory secretions at the end of life. See our document for further information: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-use-of-oral-glycopyrronium-in-palliative-care.pdf>



The use of Scopoderm® transdermal patches in palliative care



Scopoderm® patches are licensed in the UK for the prevention of symptoms of motion sickness such as nausea, vomiting and vertigo. In palliative care, they have been used to control opioid-induced nausea, and in the management of drooling and sialorrhoea in patients with disorders of the head and neck. Hyoscine has also been used transdermally in adults for reducing respiratory secretions in combination with parenteral doses of glycopyrronium bromide. Please see details here: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-use-of-Scopoderm-transdermal-patches-in-palliative-care.pdf>

What are the treatment options for a chronic cough?

A cough is a physiological protective mechanism but may also be as a result of an underlying medical condition. A chronic cough is defined as lasting more than 8 weeks. Potential causes of chronic cough should be identified and corrected prior to proceeding with pharmacological treatment. When pharmacological therapy is deemed necessary antitussives may be of benefit. These include demulcents, opioids or opioid derivatives and GABA agonists. Please see details here: <http://olh.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/What-are-the-treatment-options-for-chronic-cough.pdf>



Updates

Medication guidelines

- [How is short acting octreotide converted to long acting lanreotide?](#)
- [What is the difference between the buccal midazolam preparations Epistatus and Buccolam?](#)

Symptom control

- [What is the evidence to support the use of denosumab to treat hypercalcaemia associated with malignancy \(HCM\)?](#)
- [Calcitonin for bisphosphonate resistant hypercalcaemia.](#)
- [What are the treatment options for hiccups in palliative care patients?](#)
- [What are the treatment options for the management of a dry mouth?](#)
- [Can pilocarpine eye drops be used to treat a dry mouth?](#)
- [What are the treatment options for a painful mouth?](#)
- [Will opioid rotation resolve an opioid induced itch?](#)
- [What is the evidence to support the use of nebulised lidocaine to treat an intractable cough?](#)
- [What is the evidence for the use of morphine solution for injection mixed in gel and applied topically?](#)
- [What is the evidence to support the use of Lidocaine in Lutrol preparations on wounds?](#)
- [What is the guidance to support the use of topical sucralfate on wounds?](#)
- [What is the guidance to support the topical administration of metronidazole in the management of malodorous wounds?](#)
- [What is the guidance available for the use of adrenaline soaks on wounds?](#)
- [What is the evidence to support the use of quinine for the treatment of nocturnal leg cramps?](#)

Pain management

- [The use of Alfentanil in a syringe driver in palliative medicine](#)
- [How do you convert methadone from an oral dose to an equivalent subcutaneous dose?](#)
- [How do you convert methadone from a subcutaneous dose to an equivalent oral dose?](#)
- [What is the opioid conversion between tramadol and morphine?](#)

Palliative care in the community

- [Access to medicines in the community](#)