

Shortage of Madopar 50mg/12.5mg Dispersible Tablets

Date: 12th February 2019

Description of product affected

This is licensed for the treatment of Parkinsonism. Each dispersible tablet contains 50mg Levodopa and 12.5mg Benserazide. They are used for patients who dislike taking capsules or have difficulty in swallowing solid dosage forms. The tablets may be swallowed whole or dispersed in at least 25ml water per tablet.¹

Background

Roche, the sole supplier, is not expecting further stock until mid-end February.

Alternative agents and management options

Roche have confirmed that good supplies of Madopar 100 mg/25 mg dispersible tablets remain available. These tablets have a single break bar on one side.² Although the company have no information on whether these tablets can be halved before dispersing², and such a manipulation is unlicensed, this is an option that would be less disruptive to patient's treatment regimen. As the tablets are thick, a tablet cutter is required to halve them, but there may be instances where part of tablet crumbles. Other patients may find it easier to disperse a whole tablet in approximately 30ml of water and take half of the solution. Depending on the manual dexterity of the patient, a family member or carer may need to be involved in preparing the dose.

References

1. Roche Products Limited. Madopar 50 mg/12.5 mg Dispersible Tablets. SPC, date of revision of the text, 10 March 2016: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1111>
2. Roche Products Limited. Madopar 100 mg/25 mg Dispersible Tablets. SPC, date of revision of text, 10 March 2016: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/6924>
3. Personal communication, Medical Information, Roche Products Limited, 05 Feb, 2019

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