

# Information Sheet for Patient using Indometacin (formerly known as Indomethacin)

## **What is Indometacin?**

Indometacin is a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). It is used to treat particular forms of headache known as hemicrania continuum and paroxysmal hemicrania. Although they are widely used by headache specialists, it should be noted that Indometacin is not licensed for specific use in headache.

## **What is the dose needed?**

If the diagnosis is correct there will be an absolute response to Indometacin, but the dose may need to be higher than is normally used

- Start with 25 mg 3 times a day.
- If no response after 1 week increase to 50 mg 3 times a day.
- If no response after 1 week increase to 75 mg 3 times a day.
- If there is a response then gradually reduce until a level is achieved where you are headache free.

It is useful to discuss with your Doctor whether you should try the effect of stopping these tablets after 3 months. If there is no response after a week at 75 mg 3 times a day, then stop the tablets.

## **Does Indometacin have any side effects?**

The most common side effects are headache, dizziness and indigestion. If you are at risk of indigestion or stomach ulcers, your doctor may prescribe a second medicine to protect your stomach and reduce the risk of these side effects.

Other side effects are listed in the patient information sheet which is included with the drug.

## **Who can not take Indometacin?**

- You should not take the drug if you:
- Have an allergic reaction to NSAIDs or aspirin
- Have a history of stomach ulcers
- Have severe liver, kidney or heart disease. If you have a history of heart problems then you must discuss this with your doctor
- If you are breast feeding or anticipating a pregnancy

This leaflet is intended to provide a brief overview of aspects of this treatment protocol. It is not intended as a substitute for the comprehensive 'product information' leaflet found inside all boxes of medication. The 'product information' leaflet should always be read before taking medication.

**Your prescribing doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of the medication as it relates to you and answer any further questions you may have.**