

Supplementary medicines information for palliative care patients

All medicines are supplied with a manufacturer's 'Patient Information Leaflet'. This can provide a great deal of information about the medicine, its normal uses and side effects. However, most medicines have more than one effect on the body and for many years, palliative care (hospice) doctors have found that certain medicines are safe and effective for the treatment of symptoms **other** than those specified by the medicine's manufacturer and there is now plenty of experience to confirm such use.

We are providing you with this extra information to inform you of the reason(s) why you are taking this medicine and to highlight any other information. This should be read in conjunction with the **attached** manufacturer's patient information leaflet.

ETHAMSYLATE INJECTION AND ORAL PREPARATIONS

Ethamsylate is normally prescribed to treat abnormal blood loss during menstrual periods.

In palliative care, the injection is sometimes prescribed topically to treat surface bleeding from ulcerated tumours, nasal cavity or other organs. It is often used in conjunction with topically applied adrenaline 1:1000 injection and topically applied tranexamic acid injection.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What form(s) of this medicine are there and how is it usually taken?

- Ethamsylate is available as an oral tablet or as an injection.
- The injection is applied onto sterile gauze which is applied with pressure for 10 minutes to the area where there is surface bleeding.
- The tablets are taken orally.

NB Always follow the dose indicated on the label or advised by a healthcare professional.

Q. What are the most common side effects?

- Headache, nausea, rashes and diarrhoea.

Further information

If you have any questions about any of the medicines you have been prescribed or have any problems with side effects, please speak to one of the following:

St Catherine's Hospice
Telephone: 01293 447333

St Catherine's Hospice Pharmacist
Telephone: 01293 535000