

PACKAGE LEAFLET: Information for the patient

PROPEXOL

Tablets – 0.088 mg / 0.35 mg / 1.1 mg

(Pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Propexol is and what it is used for
2. Before you take Propexol
3. How to take Propexol
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Propexol
6. Other information

1. WHAT PROPEXOL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Propexol contains the active substance pramipexole and belongs to a group of medicines known as dopamine agonists, which stimulate dopamine receptors in the brain. Stimulation of the dopamine receptors triggers nerve impulses in the brain that help to control body movements.

Propexol is used to:

- treat the symptoms of primary Parkinson's disease in adults; it can be used alone or in combination with levodopa (another medicine for Parkinson's disease);
- treat the symptoms of moderate to severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome in adults.

2. BEFORE YOU TAKE PROPEXOL

Do not take Propexol

- if you are allergic to pramipexole or to any of the excipients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Take special care with Propexol

Talk to your doctor before taking Propexol.

Tell your doctor if you have (had) or if you develop any medical conditions or symptoms, especially any of the following:

- kidney disease;
- hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there); most hallucinations are visual;
- dyskinesia (e.g. abnormal, uncontrolled movements of the limbs); if you have advanced Parkinson's disease and are also taking levodopa, you might develop dyskinesia during the uptitration of Propexol;
- dystonia (inability of keeping your body and neck straight and upright (axial dystonia)); in particular, you may experience forward flexion of the head and neck (also called antecollis), forward bending of the lower back (also called camptocormia) or sideways bending of the back (also called pleurothotonus or Pisa Syndrome); if this happens, your doctor may want to change your medication;
- sleepiness and episodes of suddenly falling asleep;
- psychosis (e.g. comparable with symptoms of schizophrenia);
- visual impairment; you should have regular eye examinations during treatment with Propexol;
- severe heart or blood vessel disease; you will need to have your blood pressure checked regularly, especially at the beginning of treatment; this is to avoid postural hypotension (a fall in blood pressure on standing up);
- augmentation; you may find that symptoms start earlier than usual, are more intense and involve other limbs.

Tell your doctor if you or your family/carer notices that you are developing urges or cravings to behave in ways that are unusual for you and you cannot resist the impulse, drive or temptation to carry out certain activities that could harm yourself or others. These are called impulse control disorders and can include behaviours such as: addictive gambling, excessive

eating or spending, an abnormally high sex drive or preoccupation with an increase in sexual thoughts or feelings. Your doctor may need to adjust or stop your dose.

Tell your doctor if you or your family/carer notices that you are developing mania (agitation, feeling elated or over-excited) or delirium (decreased awareness, confusion, loss of reality).

Your doctor may need to adjust or stop your dose.

Tell your doctor if you experience symptoms such as depression, apathy, anxiety, fatigue, sweating or pain after stopping or reducing your Propexol treatment. If the problems persist more than a few weeks, your doctor may need to adjust your treatment.

Children and adolescents

Propexol is not recommended for use in children or adolescents under 18 years.

Other medicines and Propexol

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking/using, have recently taken/used or might take/use any other medicines. This includes medicines, herbal remedies, health foods or supplements that you have obtained without a prescription.

You should avoid taking Propexol together with antipsychotic medicines.

Take care if you are taking the following medicines:

- cimetidine (to treat excess stomach acid and stomach ulcers);
- amantadine (which can be used to treat Parkinson's disease);
- mexiletine (to treat irregular heartbeats, a condition known as ventricular arrhythmia);
- zidovudine (which can be used to treat the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), a disease of the human immune system);
- cisplatin (to treat various types of cancers);
- quinine (which can be used for the prevention of painful night-time leg cramps and for the treatment of a type of malaria known as falciparum malaria (malignant malaria));
- procainamide (to treat irregular heart beat).

If you are taking levodopa, the dose of levodopa is recommended to be reduced when you start treatment with Propexol.

Take care if you are using any other medicines that calm you down (have a sedative effect) or if you are drinking alcohol. In these cases Propexol may affect your ability to drive and operate machinery.

Propexol with food, drink and alcohol

You should be cautious while drinking alcohol during treatment with Propexol.

Propexol can be taken with or without food.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

Your doctor will then discuss with you if you should continue to take Propexol.

The effect of Propexol on the unborn child is not known. Therefore, do not take Propexol if you are pregnant unless your doctor tells you to do so.

Propexol should not be used during breastfeeding. Propexol can reduce the production of breast milk. Also, it can pass into breast milk and can reach your baby. If use of Propexol is unavoidable, breastfeeding should be stopped.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines

Propexol can cause hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there). If affected, do not drive or use machines.

Propexol has been associated with sleepiness and episodes of suddenly falling asleep, particularly in patients with Parkinson's disease. If you experience these side effects, you must not drive or operate machinery. You should tell your doctor if this occurs.

3. HOW TO TAKE PROPEXOL

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. The doctor will advise you on the right dosing.

Parkinson's disease

The daily dose is to be taken divided into 3 equal doses.

During the first week, the usual dose is 1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg three times a day (equivalent to 0.264 mg pramipexole daily):

	1st week
Number of tablets	1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg three times a day
Total daily dose (mg)	0.264

This will be increased every 5-7 days as directed by your doctor until your symptoms are controlled (maintenance dose).

	2nd week	3rd week
Number of tablets	2 tablets Propexol 0.088 mg three times a day	1 tablet Propexol 0.35 mg three times a day
Total daily dose (mg)	~0.54	~1.1

The usual maintenance dose is 1.1 mg per day. However, your dose may have to be increased even further. If necessary, your doctor may increase your tablet dose up to a maximum of 3.3 mg of pramipexole a day. A lower maintenance dose of three Propexol 0.088 mg tablets a day is also possible.

	Lowest maintenance dose	Highest maintenance dose
Number of tablets	1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg three times a day	1 tablet Propexol 1.1 mg three times a day
Total daily dose (mg)	0.264	3.3

Patients with kidney disease

If you have moderate or severe kidney disease, your doctor will prescribe a lower dose. In this case, you will have to take the tablets only once or twice a day. If you have moderate kidney disease, the usual starting dose is 1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg twice a day. In severe kidney disease, the usual starting dose is just 1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg a day.

Restless Legs Syndrome

The dose is usually taken once a day, in the evening, 2-3 hours before bedtime.

During the first week, the usual dose is 1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg once a day (equivalent to 0.088 mg daily):

	1st week
Number of tablets	1 tablet Propexol 0.088 mg
Total daily dose (mg)	0.088

This will be increased every 4-7 days as directed by your doctor until your symptoms are controlled (maintenance dose).

	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Number of tablets	2 tablets Propexol 0.088 mg	1 tablet Propexol 0.35 mg OR 4 tablets Propexol 0.088 mg	6 tablets Propexol 0.088 mg
Total daily dose (mg)	~0.18	0.35	~0.54

The total daily dose should not exceed 6 tablets Propexol 0.088 mg or a dose of ~0.54 mg (~0.75 mg pramipexole salt).

If you stop taking your tablets for more than a few days and want to restart the treatment, you must start again at the lowest dose. You can then build up the dose again, as you did the first time. Ask your doctor for advice.

Your doctor will review your treatment after 3 months to decide whether or not to continue the treatment.

Patients with kidney disease

If you have severe kidney disease, Propexol may not be a suitable treatment for you.

If you take more Propexol than you should

If you accidentally take too many tablets,

- contact your doctor, the hospital or call the emergency to get an opinion of the risk and advice on the actions to be taken;
- you may experience vomiting, restlessness, or any of the side effects as described in section 4 “Possible side effects”.

If you forget to take Propexol

Do not take a double dose to make up a forgotten dose. Take your next dose at the right time.

If you stop taking Propexol

Do not stop taking Propexol without first talking to your doctor. If you have to stop taking this medicine, your doctor will reduce the dose gradually. This reduces the risk of worsening symptoms.

If you suffer from Parkinson’s disease, you should not stop treatment with Propexol abruptly. A sudden stop could cause you to develop a medical condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome which may represent a major risk. The symptoms include:

- akinesia (loss of muscle movement),
- rigid muscles,
- fever,
- unstable blood pressure,
- tachycardia (increased heart rate),
- confusion,
- depressed level of consciousness (e.g. coma).

If you stop or reduce Propexol you may also develop a medical condition called dopamine agonist withdrawal syndrome. The symptoms include depression, apathy, anxiety, fatigue, sweating or pain. If you experience these symptoms you should contact your physician.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you suffer from Parkinson's disease, you may experience the following side effects:

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Dyskinesia (e.g. abnormal, uncontrolled movements of the limbs)
- Sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Nausea (sickness)

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Urge to behave in an unusual way
- Hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there)
- Confusion
- Tiredness (fatigue)
- Sleeplessness (insomnia)
- Excess of fluid, usually in the legs (peripheral oedema)
- Headache
- Hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Abnormal dreams
- Constipation
- Visual impairment
- Vomiting (being sick)
- Weight loss including decreased appetite

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Paranoia (e.g. excessive fear for one's own well-being)
- Delusion
- Excessive daytime sleepiness and suddenly falling asleep
- Amnesia (memory disturbance)
- Hyperkinesia (increased movements and inability to keep still)
- Weight increase
- Allergic reactions (e.g. rash, itching, hypersensitivity)
- Fainting

- Cardiac failure (heart problems which can cause shortness of breath or ankle swelling)*
- Inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion*
- Restlessness
- Dyspnoea (difficulty to breathe)
- Hiccups
- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- Inability to resist the impulse, drive or temptation to perform an action that could be harmful to you or others, which may include:
 - strong impulse to gamble excessively despite serious personal or family consequences;
 - altered or increased sexual interest and behaviour of significant concern to you or to others, for example, an increased sexual drive;
 - uncontrollable excessive shopping or spending;
 - binge eating (eating large amounts of food in a short time period) or compulsive eating (eating more food than normal and more than is needed to satisfy your hunger)*
- Delirium (decreased awareness, confusion, loss of reality).

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Mania (agitation, feeling elated or over-excited)

Not known (Frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- After stopping or reducing your Propexol treatment: depression, apathy, anxiety, fatigue, sweating or pain may occur (called dopamine agonist withdrawal syndrome or DAWS).

Tell your doctor if you experience any of these behaviours; he will discuss ways of managing or reducing the symptoms.

For the side effects marked with * a precise frequency estimation is not possible, since these side effects were not observed in clinical studies among 2,762 patients treated with pramipexole. The frequency category is probably not greater than “uncommon”.

If you suffer from Restless Legs Syndrome, you may experience the following side effects:

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Nausea (sickness)

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Changes in sleep pattern, such as sleeplessness (insomnia) and sleepiness
- Tiredness (fatigue)
- Headache
- Abnormal dreams
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Vomiting (being sick)

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Urge to behave in an unusual way*
- Cardiac failure (heart problems which can cause shortness of breath or ankle swelling)*
- Inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion*
- Dyskinesia (e.g. abnormal, uncontrolled movements of the limbs)
- Hyperkinesia (increased movements and inability to keep still)*
- Paranoia (e.g. excessive fear for one's own well-being)*
- Delusion*
- Amnesia (memory disturbance)*
- Hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there)
- Confusion
- Excessive daytime sleepiness and suddenly falling asleep
- Weight increase
- Hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Excess of fluid, usually in the legs (peripheral oedema)
- Allergic reactions (e.g. rash, itching, hypersensitivity)
- Fainting
- Restlessness
- Visual impairment
- Weight loss including decreased appetite
- Dyspnoea (difficulties to breathe)
- Hiccups
- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)*
- Inability to resist the impulse, drive or temptation to perform an action that could be harmful to you or others, which may include:

- strong impulse to gamble excessively despite serious personal or family consequences*;
- altered or increased sexual interest and behaviour of significant concern to you or to others, for example, an increased sexual drive*;
- uncontrollable excessive shopping or spending*;
- binge eating (eating large amounts of food in a short time period) or compulsive eating (eating more food than normal and more than is needed to satisfy your hunger)*
- Mania (agitation, feeling elated or over-excited)*
- Delirium (decreased awareness, confusion, loss of reality)*.

Not known (Frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

After stopping or reducing your Propexol treatment: depression, apathy, anxiety, fatigue, sweating or pain may occur (called dopamine agonist withdrawal syndrome or DAWS).

Tell your doctor if you experience any of these behaviours; he will discuss ways of managing or reducing the symptoms.

For the side effects marked with *, a precise frequency estimation is not possible, since these side effects were not observed in clinical studies among 1,395 patients treated with pramipexole. The frequency category is probably not greater than “uncommon”.

5. HOW TO STORE PROPEXOL

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children!

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the pack.

Do not store above 30°C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. OTHER INFORMATION

What Propexol contains

The active substance is pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate.

Each Propexol 0.088 mg tablet contains 0.088 mg of pramipexole base (as 0.125 mg of pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate).

Each Propexol 0.35 mg tablet contains 0.35 mg of pramipexole base (as 0.5 mg of pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate).

Each Propexol 1.1 mg tablet contains 1.1 mg of pramipexole base (as 1.5 mg of pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate).

The excipients are: mannitol, maize starch, anhydrous colloidal silica, povidone, magnesium stearate.

Content of the pack

Box with 30 tablets.

Marketing Authorisation Holder (MAH) and Manufacturer:

PROFARMA sh.a.,

St. "Skënder Vila",

Tirana, Albania.

Tel.: +355 4 23 89 602

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