

Guideline on the management of nausea and vomiting in migraine

Gastric stasis

During the migraine attack, the action of the stomach is inhibited, and this leads to nausea and vomiting. The important treatment implication is that medication taken orally will not be absorbed as effectively and an anti-emetic will help to facilitate this. For this reason, it is important to take migraine medication as soon as possible in an attack. In adults the anti-sickness drug of choice is metoclopramide (10mg). Maximum 4/day, 8 in any attack. It has anti-nausea, prokinetic and analgesic properties due to its anti-dopaminergic action. Prochlorperazine 5mg tabs X 2 is second line and can be used in the buccal formulation to facilitate absorption, 3mg X 2 if vomiting is a problem. (Domperidone can be used but is more appropriate for use under the age of 18). If there are other drugs that extend the QR interval - in particular Citalopram, Venlafaxine and Verapamil, do not use Domperidone.