



Information for Patients

ROPINEROLE TREATMENT GUIDELINES for RLS/PLMD



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Ropinerole is a medication from a class known as 'dopaminergic agents'. These agents have been found to alleviate symptoms of Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS) and Periodic Limb Movement Disorder (PLMD).

The previous dopaminergic agents used in Australia were derived from ergot. These agents can potentially cause undesirable fibrotic reactions in certain body tissues. This seems not to occur with non-ergot-derived dopamine agonists, which are therefore considered superior. Ropinerole is the first such agent released in Australia, and is the only dopamine agonist formally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Authority in Australia for the treatment of Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS).

Dosage and Administration of Repreve:

Start with 0.25mg (½ of 0.5mg tablet) at night for at least two days. If and when this dose is well tolerated, increase to 0.5mg at night for the remainder of week one.

If the RLS/PLMD symptoms respond, there is no need to increase the dose further. Otherwise, gradual dose-increases should be made accordingly to the following schedule, until the RLS/PLMD is under control:

Week two: increase dose to 1.0mg each night

Week three: increase dose to 1.5mg each night

Week four: increase dose to 2mg each night

Week five: increase dose to 2.5mg each night

Week six: increase dose to 3mg each night

Week seven: increase dose to 3.5mg each night

Week eight: increase dose to 4mg each night.

Side-Effects:

The principal side effects of Repreve are nausea and vomiting. These side-effects occur mainly when Repreve is first introduced, especially if the dose is high. It is for this reason that the dose should be increased very slowly, according to the schedule outlined. Dizziness, somnolence or fatigue also occasionally occur. If nausea or vomiting do occur, this may settle if the dose is temporarily decreased and then gradually increased again. Often these symptoms will settle within a week or two in any case if an antiemetic agent (e.g. domperidone) is prescribed simultaneously. You should consult the Product Information leaflet for more information.