

TREATMENT OF MOTOR FLUCTUATIONS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH SUBCUTANEOUS APOMORPHINE

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26 patients with idiopathic Parkinson's disease and response oscillations to sustained oral levodopa therapy were treated with additional subcutaneous apomorphine for periods of up to fifteen months. Apomorphine was given as multiple daily injections via pen-injectors (12 patients) or as continuous 24 hour infusions via mini pumps (14 patients).

Mean doses of apomorphine were 12 mg/d in the patients receiving intermittent injections and 110 mg/d in those on 24 hour infusion regimens. There was a significant and sometimes dramatic reduction in the sum of daily 'off'- hours in both groups and with continuous subcutaneous infusions of apomorphine the daily dose of levodopa could be reduced by an average 50% and some cases no longer required oral drugs at all.

Tolerability of apomorphine was excellent with no signs of nephrotoxicity or drug induced psychosis. Treatment details and results will be presented and the role of subcutaneous apomorphine in the treatment of fluctuating Parkinson's disease will be discussed.