

PERGOLIDE (PERMAX®)

Dopamine Agonist

Definition and Use

- Chemically resembles dopamine, which is deficient in the brain in Parkinson's disease. It is called a dopamine agonist because it simulates the action of dopamine, and thereby alleviates some symptoms.
- Pergolide is a synthetic derivative of a chemical called "ergot", and for this reason may result in fibrosis, which means that the lining of body organs becomes thickened.
- Early PD: provides sufficient relief of symptoms delaying the need to introduce levodopa.
- Moderate to Advanced PD: used as a supplemental agent to levodopa.

Dosage

Administered in tablets. Permax® 0.05 mg, Permax® 0.25 mg and Permax® 1 mg.

Expectations/Effects:

- Pergolide is used to treat the stiffness, tremors, spasms, and poor muscle control of Parkinson's disease. Pergolide is often used in conjunction with other medicines.
- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Pergolide may cause drowsiness or low blood pressure (leading to dizziness and other symptoms), especially when rising from a sitting or lying position. Rise slowly and use caution when performing hazardous activities until you know how this medication affects you.

Side Effects:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Confusion
- Dyskinesia
- Insomnia
- Hallucinations
- Lightheadedness
- Fainting
- Fibrosis (lining of body organs can become thickened)
- Valvular heart disease
- **Close monitoring which may include yearly Echocardiograms is recommended to assess heart function because of the potential risk of pulmonary fibrosis with Pergolide. This can affect lung and abdominal functions as well as heart function.**

**Do not stop your medication without talking to your doctor
or a neurology resident on call.**