

The Medical Letter®

on Drugs and Therapeutics

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► Comparison Chart: Some Drugs for Motion Sickness

Comparison Chart: Some Drugs for Motion Sickness				
Drug	Adult Dosage	Some Adverse Effects/Pregnancy	Comments	Cost ¹
Dimenhydrinate – generic <i>Dramamine</i> (Medtech) 50 mg tabs; 50 mg chewable tabs	50-100 mg q4-6 hrs starting 0.5-1 hr before travel (max 400 mg/day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Drowsiness, fatigue, slowed reactions, impaired coordination and concentration, dry mouth ▶ Pregnancy: first-trimester exposure has not been associated with adverse fetal outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First-generation antihistamine ▶ Available over the counter ▶ Good choice for milder symptoms ▶ Not recommended for children <2 years old 	\$0.10
Meclizine – generic <i>Bonine</i> (Wellspring) 12.5, 25 mg tabs; 25 mg chewable tabs	25-50 mg 1 hr before travel (repeat q24 hrs if needed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Drowsiness, fatigue, headache, dry mouth, blurred vision ▶ Pregnancy: first-trimester exposure has not been associated with adverse fetal outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First-generation antihistamine ▶ Available over the counter ▶ Good choice for milder symptoms ▶ Not recommended for children <12 years old 	0.30
Promethazine – generic 12.5, 25, 50 mg tabs; 6.25 mg/5 mL PO syrup	25-50 mg starting 0.5-1 hr before travel; repeat 8-12 hrs later, and then twice daily thereafter if needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Highly sedating ▶ Considerable anticholinergic effects ▶ May lower seizure threshold ▶ Pregnancy: first-trimester exposure has not been associated with adverse fetal outcomes; may inhibit platelet aggregation in newborn when administered within 2 wks of delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First-generation antihistamine ▶ Most potent antihistamine antiemetic ▶ FDA-approved for active and prophylactic treatment of motion sickness ▶ Use only for severe or refractory cases ▶ Contraindicated in children <2 years old (risk of fatal respiratory depression) 	0.20
Scopolamine – generic <i>Transderm Scop</i> (Baxter) 1 mg/3 days transdermal patch	Apply 1 patch behind ear starting 6-8 hrs before travel; change patch q3 days, if needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Dry eyes and mouth, agitation, confusion, palpitations, mydriasis, blurred vision, drowsiness, headache, application-site burning, hyperthermia, decreased GI motility, urinary retention ▶ Pregnancy: avoid in pregnant women with severe preeclampsia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Muscarinic antagonist ▶ FDA-approved for prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness in adults ▶ Contraindicated in patients with angle closure glaucoma 	10.10/patch
Tradipitant – <i>Nereus</i> (Vanda) 85 mg caps	85 or 170 mg about 1 hr before travel (max one dose per 24 hours)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Somnolence, headache, fatigue ▶ Pregnancy: no adequate data available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Substance P/neurokinin-1 (NK-1) receptor antagonist ▶ FDA-approved for prevention of motion-induced vomiting in adults 	255.00

1. Approximate WAC for 1 day of treatment with the lowest adult dosage. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost, or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. May 5, 2026. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2026. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.