

The Medical Letter®

on Drugs and Therapeutics

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► Comparison Chart: Some Drugs for Motion Sickness

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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)	► Drowsiness, fatigue, slowed reactions, impaired coordination and concentration, dry mouth ► Pregnancy: first-trimester exposure has not been associated with adverse fetal outcomes	► 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)	► Drowsiness, fatigue, headache, dry mouth, blurred vision ► Pregnancy: first-trimester exposure has not been associated with adverse fetal outcomes	► 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	► 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	► 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	► 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	► 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)	► Somnolence, headache, fatigue ► Pregnancy: no adequate data available	► 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.				