## EXELON (rivastigmine) Fact Sheet

**Manufacturer**: Novartis; patent expires 2012.

**Indications**:

- Mild to moderate Alzheimer's dementia.
- Mild to moderate dementia associated with Parkinson's disease.
- Off-label use for severe dementia and mild cognitive impairment.

**Mechanism**: Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor. Enhances brain cholinergic function.

**Dosing**:

- Supplied as:
  - 1.5 mg yellow, 3 mg orange, 4.5 mg red, and 6 mg orange and red capsules.
  - Oral solution available in 2 mg/mL strength.
- Start at 1.5 mg BID, wait at least two weeks before increasing to 3 mg BID. The maximum recommended dose is 6 mg BID.
- You may need to decrease the dose in both hepatic and renal impairment.

**Side Effects**:

- Most common: nausea (47% of patients in clinical trials), vomiting (31%), dizziness (21%), diarrhea (19%), insomnia, fatigue.
- Occasionally: agitation, nightmares.
- May aggravate stomach ulcers (potential class effect of all cholinesterase inhibitors).
- Pregnancy risk category B.

**Drug-drug interactions**:

- None reported.

**Pharmacokinetics:**

- Metabolized by the liver, but the P450 system is not involved.
- Half-life 1.5 hours.

**Laboratory monitoring**:

- None required

**Pearls:**

- High rate of nausea and vomiting; dose cautiously to avoid this.
- Exelon patch likely to be approved soon.