Canada-Approved Medicine: This monograph describes a medication approved for use in Canada by the Therapeutic Products Directorate, a division of Health Canada’s Health Products and Food Branch. The medication is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; however, a similar formulation carrying a different name or brandname might be available in the United States.

pinaverium (pin-ah-veer-ee-um)

**Classification**
- Therapeutic: anti-irritable bowel syndrome agents
- Pharmacologic: calcium channel blockers

**Indications**
Management of symptoms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) including abdominal pain, bowel disturbances and discomfort. Treatment of symptoms related to biliary tract disorders.

**Action**
Acts as a calcium channel blocker with specific selectivity for intestinal smooth muscle. Relaxes gastrointestinal (mainly colon) and biliary tracts, inhibits colonic motor response to food/pharmacologic stimulation. **Therapeutic Effects:** Decreased symptoms of IBS.

**Pharmacokinetics**
- **Absorption:** Poorly absorbed (1–10%).
- **Distribution:** Distributes selectively to digestive tract.
- **Protein Binding:** 97%.
- **Metabolism and Excretion:** Minimal enterohepatic cycling, eliminated almost entirely in feces. Some metabolism.
- **Half-life:** 1.5 hr.

**TIME/ACTION PROFILE (blood levels)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>ONSET</th>
<th>PEAK</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>PO</td>
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**Contraindications/Precautions**
- **Contraindicated in:** Known hypersensitivity; Galactose intolerance/Laplllactase deficiency or non-galactose malabsorption (tablets contain lactose).
- **Use Cautiously in:** Pre-existing eosphageal lesions/hiatal hernia (glass of water and snack should be taken with each dose); OB: Safe use in pregnancy has not been established, should be used only if essential to welfare of patient.

**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**
- **All less than 1%**
  - CNS: drowsiness, headache, vertigo.
  - GI: constipation, diarrhea, distention, dry mouth, epigastric pain/fullness, esophageal irritation, nausea.
  - Derm: rash.

**Interactions**
- **Drug-Drug:** Concurrent use of anticholinergics may qspasmolytic effects.

**Route/Dosage**
- **PO (Adults):** 50 mg three times daily, may be increased as needed/tolerated up to 100 mg three times daily.

**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**
- Assess patient for symptoms of IBS (abdominal pain or discomfort, bloating, constipation).

**Implementation**
- **PO:** Administer tablet with a glass of water and food. Swallow tablet whole, do not crush, chew or suck. If 3 tablets/day prescribed, take additional tablets with glass of water instead of a snack. Do not take the tablet while lying down or just before bedtime.

**Patient/Family Teaching**
- Instruct patient to take pinaverium as directed. Take missed dose as soon as remembered unless almost time for next dose; do not double doses.
Caution patient to inform health care professional if the following side effects persist or worsen: stomach pain or fullness, nausea, constipation or diarrhea, heartburn, headache, dry mouth, dizziness, skin rash.

Instruct patient to avoid alcohol intake while taking this medication.

Advise female patient to inform health care professional if pregnancy is planned or suspected or if breast feeding.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**

- A decrease in symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome. The length of treatment depends on the condition being treated.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?