

1.2.4 Dosage Regimen of Esomeprazole

The recommended dose of esomeprazole may vary according to the indication as follows : (Tsai HH *et al.*, 2004).

- For GERD, 20 or 40 mg of esomeprazole is given once daily for 4-8 weeks. In children ages 1-11, the dose is 10 or 20 mg daily.
- For the treatment of H. pylori, 40 mg is administered once daily in combination with amoxicillin and clarithromycin for 10 days.
- The dose for preventing NSAID-induced ulcers is 20 to 40 mg daily for 6 months.
- Zollinger-Ellison syndrome is treated with 40 mg twice daily.

Esomeprazole is advised to be administered one hour before meals, swallowed whole the capsule and should not be crushed or chewed. Patients with difficulty swallowing can open the capsule and mix the pellets with applesauce. The applesauce should not be hot and the pellets should not be chewed or crushed (Silverman *et al.*, 2004).

Main Symptoms of esomeprazole overdose may include the following:

Confusion, drowsiness, blurred vision, fast heartbeat, nausea, sweating, flushing, headache and dry mouth (Moayyedi P *et al.*, 2010).

1.2.5 Drug interactions of Esomeprazole

Esomeprazole is an inhibitor of the enzymes CYP2C19 and CYP2C9 and thus it has some interactions with other drugs as diazepam and warfarin (their concentrations might increase with concomitant administration of esomeprazole) and clopidogril (its concentration decrease with concomitant administration of esomeprazole) also it may increase blood levels of squinavir (Stedman CA *et al.*, 2000).