

vecuronium

4mg injection

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This is a High Risk Medication

Only muscle relax a neonate if confident that the airway can be maintained and hand ventilation provided.

Dose and Indications

For muscle paralysis in ventilated babies and for intubation

Intravenous

0.1mg/kg

The dose may be repeated every 1 to 2 hours or as needed for paralysis

Preparation and Administration

Intravenous

There are **TWO STEPS** to this process.

STEP ONE: Add 1mL of diluent provided (water for injection) to the vial and shake gently to dissolve (to a total volume of 1mL). The resulting solution contains 4mg/mL vecuronium.

STEP TWO: Further dilute 1mL of the 4mg/mL vecuronium solution with 3mL of compatible fluid (to a total volume of 4mL). The resulting solution contains 1mg/mL vecuronium

Dose	0.1mg	0.15mg	0.2mg	0.25mg	0.3mg	0.35mg
Volume	0.1mL	0.15mL	0.2mL	0.25mL	0.3mL	0.35mL

Administer as a push over at least 3 minutes

Discard remaining solution

Compatible Fluids

Glucose 5%, glucose/sodium chloride solutions, sodium chloride 0.9%

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Adverse Effects

Common

Prolonged paralysis

Note: Hypoxaemia may occur because of inadequate mechanical ventilation and deterioration in pulmonary mechanics

Infrequent

Tachycardia and hypotension (particularly when used in combination with opioids)

Rare

Anaphylactic reactions

Monitoring

- > Cardiorespiratory and pulse oximetry monitoring are mandatory. Close monitoring of blood pressure (invasive or non-invasive) is desirable.

Practice Points

- > Onset of action is 1 to 2 minutes; duration of action is approximately 60 minutes for infants but may be longer in neonates especially preterm
- > Use only if patient is on assisted ventilation
- > When used for intubation, ensure that an airway can be secured before paralysis
- > Provide eye protection as needed and instil lubricating eye drops every 2 hours
- > Use cautiously in neonates with hepatic or renal impairment and in neonates with fluid and electrolyte imbalance
- > Vecuronium produces less tachycardia and hypotension when compared with pancuronium
- > The neuromuscular blockade of vecuronium is of shorter duration than that of pancuronium.

Version control and change history

PDS reference: OCE use only

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	November 2012	current	Original version