

Iron Infusion

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Iron sucrose

- > A clinical trial of intravenous iron sucrose (Venofer®) is currently in progress at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. This product may be available as an iron infusion alternative once results of the trial become available

Iron polymaltose complex

- > There are no controlled studies on the effects of iron polymaltose complex on pregnant women (MIMS 2006; MIMS 2008)
- > Ferrum H® or Ferrosig®
- > Available in 100 mg / 2 mL ampoule
- > Once diluted, the infusion is stable for 24 hours at room temperature

Indications

- > Correction of iron deficiency states detected in the third trimester after failure of oral iron

Contraindications

- > The drug company's product information says Ferrum H® or Ferrosig® should not be given in the first trimester of pregnancy. However it has an ADEC category A
- > Ferrum H or Ferrosig® should not be given to a woman with haemochromatosis or an anaemia that is not due to iron deficiency
- > Avoid in women with severe inflammation or infection of the kidney or liver

Precautions

- > Anaphylactoid reactions occur most frequently within the first several minutes of administration and are generally characterised by sudden onset of respiratory difficulties, tachycardia and hypotension
- > Adrenaline, oxygen, antihistamines and steroids should be available for immediate use during administration to treat possible anaphylactic reaction
- > Oral iron is not indicated after total iron infusion

Dosage and administration

- > The obstetrician / physician should prescribe the required dose and document verbal consent when obtained for the procedure in the case notes

ISBN number:

Endorsed by:

Contact:

UNKNOWN

SA Maternal & Neonatal Clinical Network

South Australian Perinatal Practice Guidelines workgroup at:

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- > Calculation of total iron doses are based on body weight and haemoglobin (refer to product information or Australian Prescription Products guide / MIMS)
- > Add the calculated dose to 500 mL of sodium chloride 0.9 % (up to 2,500 mg may be given in 500 mL)
- > Administer through infusion pump
- > Use a dedicated intravenous line and do not add any other medications

Administration

- > The first 50 mL should be given slowly at 20 to 40 mL per hour
- > If well tolerated after 50 mL, the rate may be increased to 120 mL per hour, until completion (AIDH 2009)

Observations

Maternal

- > Monitor vital signs before the infusion, then every 15 minutes for the first two hours
- > Continue hourly until completion
- > Monitor urine output
- > Observe for initial systemic reactions including:
 - > headache
 - > nausea, vomiting
 - > joint and muscle pains
 - > faintness
 - > tachycardia
 - > flushing, sweating
 - > bronchospasm with dyspnoea
 - > hypotension, dizziness and circulatory collapse
- > Delayed systemic reactions may include:
 - > dizziness, syncope
 - > sensation of stiffness in arms, legs or face
 - > chest and back pain
 - > arthralgia, chills, fever, rash
 - > urticaria, angioneurotic oedema
 - > generalised lymphadenopathy

Fetal

- > Confirm presence of fetal heart rate on admission and before discharge

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Discharge planning

- > Discharge after medical review

References

1. Sigma. Ferrosig® injection. Product information. Sigma Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. Victoria 07/06/2006.
2. Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook (AIDH). 4th edition. Iron polymaltose complex. The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia; 2009. p. 214.
3. MIMS Online. MIMS Pharmaceutical Product Information. [online database] Full prescribing information Ferrosig® injection data version June 2006 [cited 2010 Nov 15]. Available: MIMS Online. (Level I).
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5. Bayoumeu F, Subiran-Buisset C, Baka N-E, Legagneur H, Monnier-Barbarino P, Laxenaire MC. Iron therapy in iron deficiency anemia in pregnancy: Intravenous route versus oral route. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2002; 186: 518-522.

Abbreviations

| | |
|------|--|
| ® | Registered trademark |
| mg | Milligram(s) |
| mL | Millilitre(s) |
| ADEC | Australian Drug Evaluation Committee |
| APP | Australian Prescription Products Guide |

Version control and change history

PDS reference: OCE use only

| Version | Date from | Date to | Amendment |
|---------|------------|------------|------------------|
| 1.0 | 16 Aug 04 | 08 June 06 | Original version |
| 2.0 | 08 June 06 | 20 Oct 09 | Review |
| 3.0 | 20 Oct 09 | 04 Jan 11 | Review |
| 4.0 | 04 Jan 11 | current | |