DEXMEDETOMIDINE

PRESENTATION:	Vials containing **1000micrograms** in 10ml, 400micrograms in 4ml (100micrograms/ml of dexmedetomidine).
INDICATION:	Dexmedetomidine should not be used in patients who require deep sedation (e.g. Traumatic Brain Injury, Severe Acute Respiratory Failure) It should be considered in the following situations: • Patients with severe acute agitation and/or delirium who are exceptionally challenging to manage, on more than two sedative agents. • Patients who remain delirious and/or agitated despite a short trial of continuous intravenous clonidine. • Patients with delirium and/or agitation where dexmedetomidine might facilitate extubation. ***Review ongoing requirement for dexmedetomidine after 48-72 hours of treatment and consider commencing oral antipsychotic agents e.g.quetiapine if appropriate.***
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dexdor dosing card 8mcg.pdf	**ICU STANDARD INTRAVENOUS INFUSION- 8 micrograms/ml** Remove 20ml from a 250ml infusion bag of glucose 5% or sodium chloride 0.9%. Add 2000micrograms (20ml) to the infusion bag. Initially, 0.7micrograms/kg/hr (e.g. 6.1mls/hr for a 70kg patient) titrated to required level. Dose range 0.2-1.4micrograms/kg/hr using patient's actual body weight. • A lower starting rate should be considered for frail patients • A loading dose is NOT recommended and is associated with increased adverse events. • The dose should be increased in increments of 0.1microgram/kg/hr. Leave at least 30 minutes between each dose increase. • **Do not bolus.** The infusion can be stopped abruptly but slow weaning may be required to avoid symptoms of withdrawal occurring (e.g. agitation/hypertension). **Please refer to company dosing chart.**
CONCENTRATION:	8 micrograms/ml
STABILITY:	Physically and chemically stable for 24 hours at room temperature.

References:

1. Dexmedetomidine. Summary of Product Characteristics.Martindale Pharma.www.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 14/06/22. Last updated 28/04/2022.
2. NHS Injectable Medicines Guide (Medusa). (2020). *Dexmedetomidine.* Available:https://medusa.wales.nhs.uk/IVGuideDisplayNewFormat.asp. Last accessed 03/06/22.
3. Written communication from Medical Information, Orion Pharma. 21/05/2019.
4. Shehabi Y, Howe B. D, Bellomo R et al. Early Sedation with Dexmedetomidine in Critically ill Patients. NEJM, May 19th, 2019.

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