

NICARDIPINE

PRESENTATION: 10mg in 10 ml solution for injection

INDICATION: Intravenous control of acute hypertension according to "Management of hypertension within Critical Care" guideline. For hypertension management in type B Aortic dissection, see separate guideline.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION: ICU STANDARD INFUSION

Remove 25ml from a 250ml glucose 5% infusion bag. Add 25ml (25mg) nicardipine to the glucose 5% bag. Preferably administered centrally. If given peripherally change the injection site every 12 hours to avoid irritation.

Initial dose: Commence intravenous administration of nicardipine at a rate of 3-5 mg/hr (30-50mls/hr). Rates can be increased by increments of 0.5 or 1 mg (5 or 10mls) every 15 minutes. The infusion rate should not exceed 15 mg/hr (150mls/hr).

Maintenance dose: When the target pressure is reached, the dose should be reduced progressively, usually to between 2 and 4 mg/hr (20 and 40mls/hr), to maintain the therapeutic efficacy.

CONCENTRATION: 100 micrograms/ml

STABILITY Physically and chemically stable for 24 hours.
Protect from light.

References

1. Nicardipine 10mg/ml Solution for Injection. Advanz Pharma. Summary of Product Characteristics. www.emc.medicines.org.uk. Last updated 07/12/18. Accessed 03/05/23.
2. Nicardipine 10mg/ml Solution for Injection. Aguetant Ltd. Summary of Product Characteristics. www.emc.medicines.org.uk Last updated 01/03/21. Accessed 03/05/23.
3. Nicardipine. IV injections guide accessed via www.injguide.nhs.uk. Last updated 20/11/22. Accessed 03/05/23.

Critical Care Guidelines: NICARDIPINE	
Authors: Erin Fraser	
Document Version: 4.0	Authoriser: Lothian Critical Care Directorate QIT Editorial Board
Authorisation Date: May 2023	Review Date: May 2025