SODIUM VALPROATE

As with all teratogenic medicines, pregnancy should be excluded before initiation on valproate medicines with a negative plasma pregnancy test, confirmed by a healthcare professional

PRESENTATION:	Vials containing 400mg with 4ml ampoule of water for injections for reconstitution.
INDICATION:	Epilepsy
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:	If patients have previously been on oral sodium valproate the total daily intravenous dose is equivalent to the total daily oral dose divided into three or four doses. **Reconstitution of 400mg vials** Reconstitute each 400mg vial with the 3.8ml ampoule of water for injections provided. Due to displacement the final concentration of sodium valproate is 100mg/ml. **Doses ≤ 600mg** **Centrally:** sodium valproate injection may be given after reconstitution, without further dilution, by slow intravenous injection over 3-5 minutes, or by intermittent infusion in 100ml. **Peripherally:** as a slow intravenous injection reconstituted and further diluted in at least 20ml sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%, or as an intermittent infusion in 100ml. **Doses >600mg** may be given reconstituted without further dilution by slow intravenous injection over 3-5 minutes **centrally** but must be given as an intermittent infusion if given peripherally. In status epilepticus a loading dose of 30mg/kg (if obese use ideal body weight) followed by a continuous infusion of 2400mg over 24hours. **ICU STANDARD INFUSION** **Reconstitute vials as above.** **Intermittent or continuous infusions:** Remove the required volume of glucose 5% from the 100ml infusion bag, equivalent to the volume of sodium valproate to be added. Dilute the required dose of sodium valproate injection to a total volume of 100ml with glucose 5%. Intermittent infusions are administered at a rate that does not exceed 20mg/minute i.e. maximum 1200mg over 60 minutes. Sodium valproate should be given down a dedicated lumen. If this is not possible for boluses or intermittent infusions flush the line well before and after administration. For continuous infusions a dedicated line is essential.
CONCENTRATION:	Physically and chemically stable for 24 hours at room temperature.
STABILITY:	Also stable in sodium chloride 0.9%.

References:

1. Epilim 400mg powder and solvent for solution for injection/infusion. Summary of Product Characteristics www.emc.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 14.12.17
2. Sodium valproate. Injectable Medicines Administration Guide accessed via www.injguide.nhs.uk. Accessed 14.12.17

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