


**Critical Care Guidelines
FOR CRITICAL CARE USE ONLY
DEXMEDETOMIDINE**

PRESENTATION:	Vials containing 1000micrograms in 10ml, 400micrograms in 4ml (100micrograms/ml of dexmedetomidine).
INDICATION:	<p>Dexmedetomidine should not be used in patients who require deep sedation e.g. Traumatic Brain Injury, Severe Acute Respiratory Failure.</p> <p>It should be considered in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with severe acute agitation and/or delirium who are exceptionally challenging to manage, on more than two sedative agents for no longer than 72 hours. • Patients who remain delirious and/or agitated despite a short course of clonidine (72 hours or less). • Patients with delirium and/or agitation where dexmedetomidine might facilitate extubation.
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:  Dexdor dosing card 8mcg.pdf	ICU STANDARD INFUSION Remove 20ml from a 250ml infusion bag of glucose 5%. 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 to 1.4micrograms/kg/hr. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Please leave at least 30 minutes between each dose increase. • Do not bolus. <p>The infusion can be stopped, although slow weaning may be required if withdrawal symptoms occur. Please refer to company dosing chart below.</p>
CONCENTRATION:	8 micrograms/ml
STABILITY:	Physically and chemically stable for 24 hours at room temperature.

References:

1. Dexmedetomidine, Orion Pharma, Summary of Product Characteristics. www.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 26/04/2019. Last updated 18/01/2019
2. Dexmedetomidine, Ever Pharma, Summary of Product Characteristics. www.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 26/04/19. Last updated 25/04/2018.
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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