

## 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](http://www.emc.medicines.org.uk). Last updated 07/12/2018. Accessed 20/05/21.
2. Nicardipine. IV injections guide accessed via [www.injguide.nhs.uk](http://www.injguide.nhs.uk). Accessed 20/05/21.

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