

SUXAMETHONIUM

SYNONYMS	Succinylcholine chloride
BRAND NAME	SUXAMETHONIUM JUNO
DRUG CLASS	Neuromuscular blocker
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 100 mg/2 mL of suxamethonium chloride. ¹ Also contains hydrochloric acid. The solution is clear and colourless. ¹
WARNING	Paralysing agent – causes respiratory arrest. Do not use without adequate sedation. Facilities for maintenance of airway and a reversal agent must be readily available. ^{1,2} Follow your local guidelines for safe use of neuromuscular blockers. Administration errors can be fatal.
pH	3–5 ¹
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Ampoule: store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. ¹ Stable for 30 days below 25 °C without protection from light. Do not return to the fridge. ³ Infusion solution: use within 24 hours. ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Suitable for adults and children only when unable to obtain IV access. ¹ Inject into a large muscle preferably the deltoid. ⁴
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	For short procedures inject over 10 to 30 seconds. ¹ After each dose, flush the line well to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ^{1,2}
IV infusion	For prolonged procedures dilute to a concentration of 1–2 mg/mL in sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5% and infuse at a rate of 2.5–4.3 mg/minute. ¹ Titrate to effect. Use an infusion pump. Flush well or remove the line after the infusion to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ^{1,2}
IV use for infants and children	Inject diluted or undiluted over 10 to 30 seconds. ^{1,5} After each dose, flush the line well to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ^{1,2} Continuous infusion is not recommended. ¹ See <i>Australasian Neonatal Medicines Formulary</i> (www.anmfonline.org) for use in newborns.
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ¹ , sodium chloride 0.9% ¹ , sodium chloride in glucose solutions ⁴ , Hartmann's ⁴ , Ringer's ⁴ , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site (at 2 mg/mL of suxamethonium) ⁶
Y-site	Giving other drugs via Y-site with neuromuscular blockers is not recommended. At 2 mg/mL of suxamethonium: palonosetron ⁴ At 8 mg/mL of suxamethonium: amikacin ⁷ , aztreonam ⁷ , buprenorphine ⁷ , calcium chloride ⁷ , calcium gluconate ⁷ , cefazolin ⁷ , cefotaxime ⁷ , ceftazidime ⁷ , ceftazidime ⁷ , ceftriaxone ⁷ , ciclosporin ⁷ , clindamycin ⁷ , dexamethasone ⁷ , digoxin ⁷ , dobutamine ⁷ , dopamine ⁷ , ephedrine sulfate ⁷ , erythromycin ⁷ , esmolol ⁷ , fentanyl ⁷ , fluconazole ⁷ , furosemide ⁷ , gentamicin ⁷ , glyceryl trinitrate ⁷ , hydrocortisone sodium succinate ⁷ , labetalol ⁷ , lidocaine ⁷ , magnesium sulfate ⁷ , methylprednisolone sodium succinate ⁷ , metoclopramide ⁷ , midazolam ⁷ , morphine sulfate ⁷ , noradrenaline (norepinephrine) ⁷ , ranitidine ⁷ , sodium nitroprusside ⁷ , tobramycin ⁷ , vancomycin ⁷ , verapamil ⁷ At 20 mg/mL of suxamethonium: heparin sodium ⁴

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INCOMPATIBILITY

Fluids No information

Drugs Azathioprine⁸, benzylpenicillin⁸, ganciclovir⁸, phenobarbital⁴, potassium chloride¹, quinine¹, sodium bicarbonate⁸, thiopental sodium⁸

The product information for potassium chloride states incompatibility with suxamethonium, however compatibility information is available.^{7,8} Ask your pharmacy service for advice.

SPECIAL NOTES Continuous monitoring is required.

Hypersensitivity reactions and cross-sensitivity to other neuromuscular blockers have been reported.¹

REFERENCES

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4. ASHP Injectable drug information 2021. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2021.
5. Paediatric Formulary Committee. BNF for children. London: BMJ group and Pharmaceutical Press; 2022-2023.
6. Medical Information. Plasma-Lyte 148 compatibility summary. Toongabbie, NSW: Baxter; March 2022.
7. Trissel LA, Leissing NC. Trissel's Tables of physical compatibility. Lake Forest IL: Multimatrix; 1996.
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