

DIGOXIN IMMUNE FAB

SYNONYMS	Digoxin immune Fab (ovine)
BRAND NAME	DIGIFAB
DRUG CLASS	Antidote to digoxin
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 40 mg of digoxin immune Fab fragments (derived from sheep). Also contains mannitol and sodium acetate. ¹
WARNING	Digifab causes a false elevation in serum digoxin concentrations for several days, or longer in patients with renal impairment. ^{1,2}
pH	4.5–5.5 when reconstituted ¹
PREPARATION	Reconstitute each vial with 4 mL of water for injections. Mix gently. The concentration is approximately 10 mg/mL. The solution is clear to slightly opalescent and colourless to pale yellow. ¹
STABILITY	Vial: store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. ¹ Reconstituted solution: stable for 4 hours at 2 to 8 °C. ³ Infusion solution: use immediately. ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended ¹
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended ¹
IV injection	If cardiac arrest has occurred or is imminent inject undiluted over 3 to 5 minutes. ^{1,2}
IV infusion	Preferred if the patient is not in cardiac arrest. Dilute the dose with 50–100 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% and infuse over 30 minutes. ^{1,2}
IV use for infants and children	Use the 10 mg/mL reconstituted solution or dilute further with 36 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% to make a concentration of 1 mg/mL. Infuse the dose over at least 30 minutes. ¹ If cardiac arrest is imminent inject the dose undiluted over 3 to 5 minutes. ¹
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9% ¹
Y-site	No information
INCOMPATIBILITY	No information
SPECIAL NOTES	The dose depends on whether the poisoning is acute or chronic and whether the patient is in cardiac arrest (or arrest is imminent) or not. Initial doses are given below, seek advice from a clinical toxicologist. ²

	Patient in cardiac arrest	Patient not in cardiac arrest
Acute poisoning	5 vials by IV injection	2 vials by IV infusion
Chronic poisoning	2 vials by IV injection	1 vial by IV infusion

Monitor the patient for 12 hours after giving digoxin immune Fab for acute digoxin poisoning and until cardiac effects have resolved for chronic poisoning.²

Temperature, blood pressure, potassium concentration and continuous cardiac monitoring are recommended.¹

Each vial will bind approximately 0.5 mg of digoxin.¹

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 06/06/2019.
2. Toxicology: Digoxin [August 2020]. In: eTG complete [internet]. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd; August 2020.
3. DigiFab. US prescribing information. West Conshohocken, PA: BTG International. Approved 2001. Updated January 2012. Available from www.dailymed.nlm.nih.gov.