

# DIHYDROERGOTAMINE

SYNONYMS	DHE, Dihydroergotamine mesylate
TRADE NAME	DIHYDERGOT
DRUG CLASS	Ergot alkaloid
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 1 mg/mL of dihydroergotamine mesylate. Also contains ethanol and glycerol. <sup>1</sup>
pH	3.9–4.9 <sup>1</sup>
PREPARATION	Not applicable
STABILITY	Store below 25 °C. Protect from light. <sup>1</sup>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>IM injection</b>	Suitable <sup>1</sup>
<b>SUBCUT injection</b>	Suitable <sup>1</sup>
<b>IV injection</b>	Inject slowly over 3 to 5 minutes. <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>IV infusion</b>	Dilute the dose with 100-250 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% and infuse over 1 hour. <sup>2,3</sup> See SPECIAL NOTES
COMPATIBILITY	No information
INCOMPATIBILITY	No information
SPECIAL NOTES	Nausea is a common adverse effect. <sup>1</sup> Short infusion is less likely to cause nausea than IV injection. Give ondansetron and domperidone 30 minutes before the infusion. <sup>2,3</sup> Nausea may be further reduced by slowing the rate of the infusion. <sup>2,3</sup> Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for further information on your hospital's protocol. If signs of vascular spasms are observed, stop the infusion, keep the extremities warm and if necessary, treat with a peripheral vasodilator. <sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. Dihyergot. Product information. North Ryde, NSW. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd. Approved 21/08/91. Updated 14/09/11.
2. University College London Hospitals. Pharmacy Department. UCL hospitals injectable medicines administration guide. 3rd ed. Chichester, UK: Wiley Blackwell; 2010.
3. Nagy AJ, Gandhi S, Bhole R, Goadsby PJ. Intravenous dihydroergotamine for inpatient management of refractory primary headaches. *Neurology* 2011; 77: 1827–32.