

AMPHOTERICIN B LIPOSOMAL

BRAND NAME	AMBISOME
DRUG CLASS	Antifungal
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 50 mg of amphotericin B. Also contains hydrogenated soy phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol, distearoylphosphatidylglycerol as sodium, alpha-tocopherol, sucrose and sodium succinate hexahydrate. ¹
WARNING	Anaphylactic reactions may occur. Resuscitation facilities must be readily available. ¹ There are three formulations of amphotericin B and they are not interchangeable. Use brand names when communicating orders. Check product selection carefully.
pH	5–6 when reconstituted ²
PREPARATION	Check your local guidelines; preparation by pharmacy in a sterile production unit may be required. If prepared on the ward, prepare solutions immediately before administration. Reconstitute the 50 mg vial with 12 mL of water for injections to make a concentration of 4 mg/mL. ¹ Shake vigorously for at least 30 seconds or until the powder is completely dissolved. ¹ The solution is translucent and yellow. ³ Note: from June 2021 the manufacturer will supply pharmacy with new 5 micrometre filters to replace faulty filters in certain batches. ⁴ Contact pharmacy if you are not sure that the filter has been replaced.
STABILITY	Vial: store below 25 °C ¹ Reconstituted solution: stable for 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C. ¹ Infusion solution: stable for 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C. ¹ For CoPAT use: prepare infusion solutions immediately before administration. An IV bag is preferred. The outflow filter of elastomeric infusors may be unsuitable. Infusion solutions prepared in a sterile production unit are stable for 7 days or more at 2 to 8 °C. ⁵
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Not recommended
IV infusion	Dilute the dose with glucose 5% to make a final concentration of 0.2–2 mg/mL. Use the 5 micrometre filter supplied to add the dose to the glucose 5%. ¹ Infuse over 30 to 60 minutes. Flush the line with glucose 5% before and after the infusion. ¹ An inline filter may be used if the size is not smaller than 1 micrometre. ¹
IV infusion for infants and children:	Dilute the dose with glucose 5% to make a final concentration of 0.2–2 mg/mL. Use the 5 micrometre filter supplied to add the dose to the glucose 5%. ¹ Infuse over 30 to 60 minutes. Flush the line with glucose 5% before and after the infusion. ^{1,6}
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ¹
Y-site	Do not mix with other medicines
INCOMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9% ¹
Drugs	Multiple incompatibilities ²
SPECIAL NOTES	Mild to moderate infusion reactions including fever, chills and headache may occur in the first few days of treatment. Give paracetamol, an NSAID and an antihistamine before starting the infusion. Stop or slow the rate of the infusion if an infusion reaction occurs and treat accordingly. Back pain may occur in the first few minutes of the infusion and usually resolves if the infusion is slowed. ¹

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 30/08/2019.
2. McEvoy GK editor. Handbook on injectable drugs. 20th ed. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018.
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4. Medical information. Replacement Sum filters for Ambisome (liposomal amphotericin) 50mg powder for injection AUST R 53783. Melbourne: Gilead Sciences; 28/04/2021.
5. Bing CD, Nowobilski-Vasiolios A. Extended stability for parenteral drugs 6th edition. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2017.
6. Paediatric Formulary Committee. BNF for children. Basingstoke, UK: Pharmaceutical Press; 2018-19.