

amIODAROne

BRAND NAME	CORDARONE X, AMIODARONE GH
DRUG CLASS	Antiarrhythmic
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 150 mg/3 mL of amiodarone. Also contains polysorbate-80 and benzyl alcohol. The solution is clear and slightly yellow. ¹ Amiodarone GH also contains sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. ¹
pH	4 ²
PREPARATION	Dilute before use
STABILITY	Cordarone: store below 25 °C. Protect from light. Do not refrigerate. ¹ Amiodarone GH: store below 25 °C. Protect from light. Do not freeze. ¹ Infusion solution: use within 12 hours. ¹ When prepared in glass, polyolefin or rigid PVC containers, solutions of 600 microgram/mL to 6 mg/mL of amiodarone in glucose 5% are stable for 24 hours at 25 °C. ² Do not use concentrations less than 600 microgram/mL. ²
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	In emergency situations only. Dilute 150–300 mg in 10–20 mL of glucose 5% and inject over 1 to 2 minutes. ¹ If necessary, the dose can be injected undiluted and followed immediately with at least 20 mL of glucose 5% or sodium chloride 0.9%. ³ Not recommended because of the risk of severe hypotension and circulatory collapse. ¹
IV infusion	Preferred Dilute the loading dose in 100–250 mL of glucose 5% and infuse over 20 minutes to 2 hours. ^{1,2} Dilute the maintenance dose to a concentration of 1–6 mg/mL and infuse over 24 hours. ^{1,2} Higher concentrations are used in some settings, check your local guidelines. Phlebitis is common, use a central line for continuous or repeated infusions and for concentrations greater than 2 mg/mL. ^{2,4} See SPECIAL NOTES
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>Practical example: for a loading dose of 300 mg and maintenance dose of 900 mg, dilute 1200 mg in 500 mL of glucose 5%; give the loading dose over at least 20 minutes and infuse the remaining 900 mg over 24 hours.</p></div>
IV use for infants and children	Dilute to a concentration of not less than 600 microgram/mL and infuse over 20 to 120 minutes. May be given as a continuous infusion, adjust rate according to patient response. ⁵ Maximum concentration is 6 mg/mL. ² Use a central line for concentrations greater than 2 mg/mL. ²
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ^{1,2}
Y-site	At 2 mg/mL of amiodarone: ceftolozane-tazobactam ² , isavuconazole ² , metoprolol ² At 4 mg/mL of amiodarone: amikacin ² , caspofungin ² , ceftaroline fosamil ² , clindamycin ² , dexmedetomidine ² , dobutamine ² , erythromycin ² , esmolol ² , glyceryl trinitrate ² , lidocaine ² , noradrenaline (norepinephrine) see SPECIAL NOTES ² , phentolamine ² , phenylephrine ² , potassium chloride ² see SPECIAL NOTES At 6 mg/mL of amiodarone: atracurium ² , atropine ² , calcium chloride ² , ciprofloxacin ² , fentanyl ² , fluconazole ² , gentamicin ² , insulin (Novorapid) ⁶ , labetalol ² , midazolam ² , milrinone ² , morphine sulfate ² , tirofiban ² , tobramycin ² , vancomycin ² , vecuronium ²

INCOMPATIBILITY

Fluids

Plasma-Lyte 148⁷, sodium chloride solutions^{1,2} (sodium chloride 0.9% can be used to flush the line after IV injection only³)

Drugs

Aciclovir⁸, aminophylline^{1,2}, amoxicillin-clavulanic acid², ampicillin⁸, argatroban², azithromycin⁸, bivalirudin², calcium folinate⁸, cefotaxime⁸, ceftazidime², dexamethasone⁸, digoxin², ertapenem⁸, flucloxacillin², foscarnet⁸, fosfomycin⁸, ganciclovir⁸, heparin sodium^{1,2}, hydrocortisone sodium succinate⁸, imipenem-cilastatin², ketorolac⁸, meropenem⁸, micafungin², phenobarbital⁸, piperacillin-tazobactam (EDTA-free)², potassium acetate⁸, potassium phosphates², quinine¹, ranitidine⁸, sodium acetate⁸, sodium bicarbonate², sodium phosphates², sugammadex², thiopental sodium⁸, tigecycline⁸, verapamil⁸

SPECIAL NOTES

Continuous cardiac monitoring is required when given by IV injection. Monitor blood pressure closely. Severe hypotension can occur with IV injection or if the infusion is given too fast.¹

Monitor the injection site closely. Amiodarone is an irritant. When given into a peripheral vein, injection site reactions are common and include severe pain, phlebitis and necrosis. The risk of phlebitis increases with the dose and duration of the infusion.⁵

Higher concentrations of amiodarone (i.e. 12.5–25 mg/mL) are incompatible with potassium chloride and noradrenaline (norepinephrine). Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for advice.

Amiodarone is adsorbed onto PVC and leaches plasticiser from PVC.^{1,2} If treatment is to continue beyond 24 hours, the solution must be prepared in rigid PVC or non-PVC burettes e.g. Braun Ecoflac. Preferably use non-DEHP sets.

When converting to oral therapy seek specialist cardiology advice. An oral loading dose is required unless the duration of IV therapy is more than two weeks. Oral and IV amiodarone can be given together for a few days.⁹

Do not give products that contain benzyl alcohol to neonates.

REFERENCES

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