

niCARdipine

BRAND NAME	CARDENE, LOXEN, NICARDIPINE ARROW, HIKMA, MERCURY (ADVANZ)
DRUG CLASS	Antihypertensive, calcium channel blocker
AVAILABILITY	Cardene pre-mixed infusion solution contains 20 mg/200 mL or 40 mg/200 mL of nicardipine hydrochloride in sodium chloride solution. Also contains sorbitol, citric acid anhydrous and sodium hydroxide or hydrochloric acid. ¹ The solution is clear and colourless to yellow. ¹ Ampoule or vial contains a concentrated solution of 10 mg/10 mL or 25 mg/10 mL of nicardipine. Excipients are different depending on the product sourced, check the product information statement. ²⁻⁵ The solution is clear and yellow. ^{2,4} Available through the Special Access Scheme.
pH	Pre-mixed bag: 3.7–4.7 ¹ Concentrated solution (buffered): 3.5 ⁵
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Ampoule, vial and pre-mixed bag: store at 25 °C. Protect from light. ¹⁻⁴ Infusion solution: see the product information for stability. ²⁻⁴
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Not recommended
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Not recommended
IV infusion	For infusion into a peripheral line use the pre-mixed infusion solution or dilute the ampoule or vial with a compatible fluid to a concentration of 0.1–0.2 mg/mL. ¹⁻⁴ i.e. dilute 10 mg to 100 mL or 25 mg to 250 mL to make a concentration of 0.1 mg/mL or dilute 10 mg to 50 mL or 50 mg to 250 mL to make a concentration of 0.2 mg/mL. Higher concentrations must be given into a central line. ^{2,3} Start the infusion at 5 mg/hour. Increase by up to 2.5 mg/hour every 5 minutes for rapid titration or every 15 minutes for gradual titration. The maximum rate is 15 mg/hour. ¹⁻⁴ Once target is reached, the infusion may be reduced gradually to a maintenance rate of usually 2 to 4 mg/hour. ¹⁻⁴ Use an infusion pump. A central line is preferred, or use a large peripheral vein and change the infusion site after 12 hours. ¹⁻⁴ See Special Notes
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ³⁻⁶ , sodium chloride 0.9% ⁴⁻⁶ see Special Notes
Y-site	Amikacin ⁵ , aztreonam ⁵ , calcium gluconate ⁵ , cefazolin ⁵ , clindamycin ⁵ , erythromycin ⁵ , esmolol ⁵ , fentanyl ⁵ , gentamicin ⁵ , hydromorphone ⁵ , isavuconazole ⁵ , labetalol ⁵ , lidocaine ⁵ , linezolid ⁵ , magnesium sulfate ⁵ , metronidazole ⁵ , potassium chloride ⁵ , sodium nitroprusside ⁵ , tobramycin ⁵ , vancomycin ⁵⁵
INCOMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Hartmann's ²⁻⁵ , sodium bicarbonate ²⁻⁵
Drugs	Aciclovir ⁷ , ampicillin ⁴ , azithromycin ⁷ , cefepime ⁴ , ceftolozane-tazobactam ⁴ , defibrotide ⁴ , dexamethasone ⁷ , ertapenem ⁷ , foscarnet ⁷ , fosfomycin ⁷ , furosemide ⁴ , ganciclovir ⁷ , imipenem-cilastin ⁷ , meropenem ⁷ , micafungin ⁴ , phenobarbital ⁷ , piperacillin-tazobactam (EDTA-free) ⁷ , potassium acetate ⁷ , sodium bicarbonate ⁷ , thiopental ⁷ , tigecycline ⁷
SPECIAL NOTES	Continuous cardiac monitoring is required. ¹⁻³ Effect is reduced by 50% within 30 minutes of stopping the infusion. ^{1,3} There is conflicting information about stability in sodium chloride 0.9% in PVC bags. ^{1,3-6} Refer to the product information for advice about use of non-PVC equipment.

REFERENCES

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6. Baaske DM, DeMay JF, Latona CA, Mirmira S, Sigvardson KW. Stability of nicardipine hydrochloride in intravenous solutions. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 1996; 53: 1701-5.
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