

# ROCURONIUM

BRAND NAME	ESMERON, ROCON, ROCURONIUM BROMIDE DBL, MEDSURGE, SANDOZ
DRUG CLASS	Non-depolarising neuromuscular blocker
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 50 mg/5 mL of rocuronium bromide. Also contains sodium acetate, sodium chloride and acetic acid. DBL and Sandoz brands may also contain sodium hydroxide. <sup>1</sup> The solution is clear and colourless to slightly yellow/orange. <sup>1</sup>
WARNING	Paralyzing agent - causes respiratory arrest. Do not use without adequate sedation. Facilities for maintenance of airway and a reversal agent must be readily available. <sup>1</sup>
pH	3.5–4.5 <sup>1</sup>
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Vial: store at 2 to 8 °C. <sup>1</sup> Esmeron, DBL and Rocon vials are stable for 12 weeks and Medsurge vial is stable for 8 weeks below 30 °C. Do not return to the fridge. <sup>1</sup> Infusion solution: use immediately or stable for up to 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C. <sup>1</sup>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>IM injection</b>	Not recommended <sup>1</sup>
<b>SUBCUT injection</b>	Not recommended <sup>1</sup>
<b>IV injection</b>	Suitable. <sup>1</sup> Flush the line after each dose to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. <sup>2</sup>
<b>IV infusion</b>	Dilute to a concentration of 0.5–2 mg/mL with a compatible fluid and give as a continuous infusion. Titrate to effect. <sup>1</sup> Use an infusion pump. Flush or change the line after the infusion to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. <sup>2</sup>
<b>IV use for infants and children</b>	Inject undiluted over a few seconds. <sup>1</sup> For continuous infusion dilute to a concentration of 0.5–2 mg/mL with a compatible fluid. <sup>1</sup> Flush or change the line after the infusion to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. <sup>2</sup>
COMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Glucose 5% <sup>1</sup> , glucose 5% in sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>1</sup> , Hartmann's <sup>1</sup> , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site, <sup>4</sup> sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>1</sup> , water for injections <sup>1</sup>
<b>Y-site</b>	<b>Giving other drugs via Y-site with neuromuscular blockers is not recommended.</b> Ceftolozane-tazobactam <sup>3</sup> , dexmedetomidine <sup>3</sup> , isavuconazole <sup>3</sup> , milrinone <sup>3</sup> , palonosetron <sup>3</sup> More compatibility information is available. <sup>5</sup> Consult the pharmacist, pharmacy department or medicines information service for advice.
INCOMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Fat emulsion <sup>1</sup>
<b>Drugs</b>	Amoxicillin <sup>1</sup> , azathioprine <sup>1</sup> , cefazolin <sup>1</sup> , dexamethasone <sup>1</sup> , erythromycin <sup>1</sup> , furosemide <sup>1</sup> , hydrocortisone sodium succinate <sup>1</sup> , insulin (short-acting) <sup>1</sup> , ketorolac <sup>5</sup> , lorazepam <sup>5</sup> , methylprednisolone sodium succinate <sup>1</sup> , micafungin <sup>5</sup> , piperacillin-tazobactam (EDTA-free) <sup>5</sup> , potassium phosphates <sup>5</sup> , quinine <sup>1</sup> , thiopental sodium <sup>1</sup> , vancomycin <sup>1</sup>
SPECIAL NOTES	Continuous monitoring is required.

## REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au). Accessed 29/03/2022.
2. ISMP Medication Safety Alert, Acute Care. Horsham, PA: Institute for Safe Medication Practices. 2016; 21: 12. Available from [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org). Accessed 26/08/2019.
3. McEvoy GK editor. Handbook on injectable drugs. 20th ed. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018.
4. OneCall Medical Information Service. Y-Site compatibility of intravenous drugs with Plasmalyte 148. Toongabbie, NSW: Baxter; 2015.
5. Rocuronium bromide. In: IV index [internet]. Trissel's 2 clinical pharmaceutics database (parenteral compatibility). Greenwood Village, CO: Truven Health Analytics. Accessed 26/08/2019.