

OXYTOCIN

SYNONYMS	Synthetic oxytocin
BRAND NAME	OXYTOCIN APX, GH, SYNTOCINON, VIATOCINON
DRUG CLASS	Oxytocic
AVAILABILITY	APX ampoule contains 10 units/mL of oxytocin. Also contains glacial acetic acid and chlorbutanol hemihydrate. ¹ GH ampoule contains 5 units/mL or 10 units/mL of oxytocin. Also contains sodium chloride, sodium acetate and glacial acetic acid. ¹ Syntocinon ampoule contains 5 units/mL or 10 units/mL of oxytocin. Also contains sodium acetate, glacial acetic acid, chlorbutanol hemihydrate and ethanol. ¹ Viaticinon ampoule contains 10 units/mL of oxytocin. Also contains sodium acetate and glacial acetic acid. ¹ The solution is clear and colourless. ¹
pH	3–5 ²
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. Protect from light. ¹ Viaticinon ampoules are stable for 4 weeks below 25 °C. Do not return to fridge. ¹ GH ampoules are stable for 3 months below 25 °C. Do not return to fridge. ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Suitable for third stage of labour and postpartum period. Not recommended for induction or enhancement of labour. ¹
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Suitable for third stage of labour and postpartum period. Inject slowly over 3 to 5 minutes. Rapid injection can cause transient hypotension and tachycardia. ¹ Not recommended for induction or enhancement of labour. ¹
IV infusion	Suitable for induction and enhancement of labour. ¹ Dilute 10 units with 1000 mL of a compatible fluid. ¹ Start the infusion at 1–4 milliunits/minute. Increase at intervals of at least 20 minutes as required to a maximum of 20 milliunits/minute. ¹
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"><p>Practical example: dilute 10 units in 1000 mL of compatible fluid to make a concentration of 10 milliunits/mL. A rate of 6 mL/hour will deliver a dose of 1 milliunit/minute, or dilute 10 units in 500 mL of compatible fluid to make a concentration of 20 milliunits/mL. A rate of 3 mL/hour will deliver a dose of 1 milliunit/minute.</p></div>
	For patients with fluid restrictions 10 units can be diluted to 100 mL with a compatible fluid to make a concentration of 100 milliunits/mL. Consult your local guidelines. ¹
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose in sodium chloride solutions ^{1,2} , Hartmann's ² , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site ³ , Ringer's ² , sodium chloride 0.9%. ¹ Do not use glucose 5% as it increases the risk of water intoxication. ¹
Y-site	Heparin sodium ² , potassium chloride ²
INCOMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Solutions that contain bisulfites and metabisulfites as preservatives. ¹
Drugs	No information
SPECIAL NOTES	Monitor foetal heart rate and contractions during infusion. ¹ Latex allergy may be an important predisposing risk factor for anaphylaxis following oxytocin administration. ¹

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 04/02/2021.
2. McEvoy GK editor. Handbook on injectable drugs. 20th ed. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018.
3. OneCall Medical Information Service. Y-Site compatibility of intravenous drugs with Plasmalyte 148. Toongabbie, NSW: Baxter; 2015.