

SUXAMETHONIUM

SYNONYMS	succinylcholine chloride
BRAND NAME	SUXAMETHONIUM CHLORIDE INJECTION BP (JUNO)
DRUG CLASS	Depolarising neuromuscular blocker
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 100 mg/2 mL of suxamethonium chloride. ¹ Also contains hydrochloric acid. ^{1,2} The solution is clear and colourless. ^{1,2}
WARNING	Paralysing agent - causes respiratory arrest. Do not use without adequate sedation. Facilities for maintenance of airway and a reversal agent must be readily available. ^{1,3}
pH	3–5 ¹
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Ampoule: store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. ¹ Stable for 30 days below 25 °C without protection from light. Do not return to the fridge. ⁴ Infusion solution: use within 24 hours. ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Suitable only when a vein for IV administration is inaccessible. Do not inject more than 150 mg. ¹ Inject into a large muscle preferably the deltoid. ⁵
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	For short procedures inject over 10 to 30 seconds. ¹ Flush the line after each dose to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ³
IV infusion	For prolonged procedures dilute to a concentration of 1–2 mg/mL in sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5% and infuse at a rate of 2.5–4.3 mg/minute. ¹ Titrate to effect. Use an infusion pump. Flush or change the line after the infusion to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ³
IV use for infants and children	Inject diluted or undiluted over 10 to 30 seconds. ^{1,6} Flush the line after each dose to avoid re-paralysis during recovery. ³ Continuous infusion in children and neonates is not recommended due to the risk of malignant hyperthermia. ¹
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ¹ , Hartmann's ⁵ , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site ⁷ , Ringer's ⁵ , sodium chloride 0.9% ¹ , sodium chloride in glucose solutions ⁵
Y-site	Giving other drugs via Y-site with neuromuscular blockers is not recommended. At 2 mg/mL of suxamethonium: palonosetron ⁵ At 8 mg/mL of suxamethonium: amikacin ⁸ , aztreonam ⁸ , buprenorphine ⁸ , calcium chloride ⁸ , calcium gluconate ⁸ , cefalotin ⁸ , cefazolin ⁸ , cefotaxime ⁸ , ceftazidime ⁸ , ceftriaxone ⁸ , ciclosporin ⁸ , clindamycin ⁸ , dexamethasone ⁸ , digoxin ⁸ , dobutamine ⁸ , dopamine ⁸ , ephedrine sulfate ⁸ , erythromycin ⁸ , esmolol ⁸ , fentanyl ⁸ , fluconazole ⁸ , furosemide ⁸ , gentamicin ⁸ , glyceryl trinitrate ⁸ , hydrocortisone sodium succinate ⁸ , labetalol ⁸ , lidocaine ⁸ , magnesium sulfate ⁸ , methylprednisolone sodium succinate ⁸ , metoclopramide ⁸ , midazolam ⁸ , morphine sulfate ⁸ , noradrenaline (norepinephrine) ⁸ , ranitidine ⁸ , sodium nitroprusside ⁸ , tobramycin ⁸ , vancomycin ⁸ , verapamil ⁸ At 20 mg/mL of suxamethonium: heparin sodium ⁵

INCOMPATIBILITY

Fluids No information

Drugs Azathioprine⁹, benzylpenicillin⁹, ganciclovir⁹, indometacin⁹, phenobarbital⁵, potassium chloride¹ see SPECIAL NOTES, quinine¹, sodium bicarbonate⁵, thiopental sodium⁹

SPECIAL NOTES Continuous monitoring is required.

The product information for potassium chloride states incompatibility with suxamethonium, however compatibility information is available.^{8,9}

REFERENCES

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