IRON DEXTRAN

BRAND NAME	COSMOFER
DRUG CLASS	Iron supplement
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 100 mg/2 mL, 250 mg/5 mL or 500 mg/10 mL of elemental iron as an iron(III)-hydroxide dextran complex. Also contains sodium hydroxide and/or hydrochloric acid.[1] The solution is clear and dark brown.[1] Available through the Special Access Scheme.
WARNINGS	Serious hypersensitivity reactions and anaphylaxis may occur. The reactions may occur even when a previous dose has been tolerated or there has been a negative test dose. Resuscitation facilities must be readily available.[1] Extravasation may cause irritation and permanent staining. Potentially permanent staining has occurred in the absence of obvious extravasation. It is recommended that patients be advised of this risk.[2]
PREPARATION	**For IV injection**: dilute the dose in 10–20 mL of sodium chloride 0.9%.[1] The use of glucose 5% may increase incidence of pain and phlebitis.[3] **For IV infusion**: for total dose infusion, dilute the dose in 500 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.[1] For doses up to 200 mg, dilute in 100 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.[1]
STABILITY	Ampoule: store below 25 °C. Do not freeze.[1] Infusion solution: stable for 24 hours at 25 °C or 2 to 8 °C.[1]
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	See the Product Information for instructions. The IM route is no longer recommended. Absorption is poor and the injection is painful.[4]
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Suitable for doses of 100–200 mg.[1] See PREPARATION. Inject the first 25 mg of iron over 1 to 2 minutes, for every dose. If there are no adverse reactions within 15 minutes, give the rest of the dose.[1] In haemodialysis patients, may be given into the venous limb of the dialyser.[1]
IV infusion	Preferred route.[1] See PREPARATION. Infuse the first 25 mg of iron over 15 minutes, for every dose. If tolerated, gradually increase the rate to a maximum of 120 mL/hour.[1] A total dose infusion takes 4 to 6 hours.[1]
COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9%, glucose 5%[1]
Y-site	No information
INCOMPATIBILITY	Do not mix with other fluids or drugs[1]
SPECIAL NOTES	Do not give oral and parenteral iron together.[1] Monitor patients closely for signs of hypersensitivity during and for at least 30 minutes after administration.[1] Monitor the infusion site. Stop the infusion if there are signs of extravasation and take immediate action.[1] Infusion reactions include itching, nausea, shivering, arthralgia, rash, flushing, fever and injection site reactions. If these occur then stop the infusion immediately.[1] Arthralgia, myalgia and fever may occur for 2-4 days after the infusion.[1]

REFERENCES

1. CosmoFer. Summary of product characteristics. Reading, Berkshire: Pharmacosmos UK Ltd. Approved April 2001. Updated January 2020. Available from www.medicines.org.uk. Accessed 11/01/2022.
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3. McEvoy GK editor. AHFS Clinical drug information [internet]. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2022. Updated 04/11/2013. Accessed 04/02/2022.
4. Iron deficiency. [March 2016]. In: Therapeutic Guidelines [Internet]. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd; March 2021.