

# ARGATROBAN

BRAND NAMES	ARGATRA, EXEMBOL
DRUG CLASS	Anticoagulant, direct thrombin inhibitor
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 250 mg/2.5 mL of argatroban. Also contains sorbitol and ethanol. The solution is slightly viscous, clear and colourless to light yellow. <sup>1,2</sup> Contains 50% v/v ethanol. <sup>1,2</sup> A ready-to-use 1 mg/mL solution for infusion may be available. Check product strength carefully. Available through the Special Access Scheme.
pH	3.2–7.5 when diluted to 1 mg/mL <sup>1,2</sup>
PREPARATION	Dilute before use <sup>1,2</sup>
STABILITY	Vial: store below 25 °C. Do not refrigerate or freeze. Protect from light. <sup>1,2</sup> Infusion solution: stable for 24 hours below 25 °C or at 2 to 8 °C. <sup>1,2</sup>
ADMINISTRATION	
<b>IM injection</b>	Not recommended
<b>SUBCUT injection</b>	Not recommended
<b>IV injection</b>	Inject the loading dose over 3 to 5 minutes. <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>IV infusion</b>	Dilute to a concentration of 1 mg/mL with a compatible fluid: dilute 50 mg (0.5 mL) to 50 mL, or 250 mg (2.5 mL) to 250 mL or 500 mg (5 mL) to 500 mL. Invert the bag several times to mix well. <sup>1,2</sup> Use an infusion pump. Starting rates from 0.5 microgram/kg/minute to 2 microgram/kg/minute are used, adjusted to aPTT. <sup>1,2</sup> Check your local guidelines.
COMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	Glucose 5% <sup>1,2</sup> , Hartmann's <sup>1,2</sup> , sodium chloride 0.9% <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>Y-site</b>	At <b>1 mg/mL</b> of argatroban: atropine <sup>3</sup> , dobutamine <sup>3</sup> , dopamine <sup>3</sup> , eptifibatide <sup>3</sup> , esmolol, <sup>3</sup> fentanyl <sup>3</sup> , furosemide <sup>3</sup> , glyceryl trinitrate <sup>3</sup> , hydrocortisone sodium succinate <sup>3</sup> , lidocaine <sup>3</sup> , metoprolol <sup>3</sup> , midazolam <sup>3</sup> , milrinone <sup>3</sup> , morphine sulfate <sup>3</sup> , noradrenaline (norepinephrine) <sup>3</sup> , phenylephrine <sup>3</sup> , sodium nitroprusside <sup>3</sup> , tirofiban <sup>3</sup> , verapamil <sup>3</sup>
INCOMPATIBILITY	
<b>Fluids</b>	No information
<b>Drugs</b>	Amiodarone <sup>4</sup> , cefepime <sup>4</sup>
SPECIAL NOTES	Argatroban is an anticoagulant that may be used in patients with heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. <sup>1,2</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. Argatra. Product information. Mulgrave, Vic: Medsurge; 23/05/2019.
2. Exembol Multidose 100 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion. Summary of product characteristics. London. Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Europe. Approved 31/12/2015. Updated 13/09/2017. Available from [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk). Accessed 20/05/2019.
3. McEvoy GK editor. Handbook on injectable drugs. 20th ed. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2018.
4. Argatroban. In: IV Index [internet]. Trissel's 2 Clinical pharmaceuticals database (parenteral compatibility). Greenwood Village, CO: Truven Health Analytics. Accessed 20/05/2019.