

## Who can administer

Administration RESTRICTED - see [Appendix 1](#)

## Important information

- Monitoring requirements - see below
- Doxapram infusion is listed as a licensed preparation - however, it is not marketed in Ireland. We are therefore suggesting preparing an infusion using the ampoules if an infusion is required

## Available preparations

Doxapram 100mg per 5ml ampoule

## Reconstitution

Already in solution

**Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle**

## Infusion fluids

If infusion required: prepare using Glucose 5% (but see under Further Information re Sodium chloride 0.9%)

## Methods of intravenous administration

### **Bolus intravenous injection**

- Administer required dose over at least 30 seconds
- May be repeated at one hour intervals if needed

### **Continuous intravenous infusion** <sup>(unlicensed)</sup>

- Prepare an infusion containing 2mg/ml as follows:
- Add 5 ampoules of 100mg/5ml (=500mg/25ml) to 225ml infusion fluid; (unlicensed method of preparation)
- Administer as per 'Dose below'
- Administer concurrently with oxygen

## Dose in adults

### **Post-operative use (using intravenous injection)**

- Administer 1 to 1.5mg/kg by intravenous bolus administration over at least 30 seconds
- May be repeated at one hour intervals if needed

### **Post-operative use (using intravenous infusion)**

- Recommended dosage is 2 to 3 mg per minute (=60 to 90ml/hour of a 2mg/ml solution)
- Adjust dose according to the response of the patient

- Maximum dose 4mg/minute

### **Acute respiratory failure (using intravenous infusion)**

- Administer 1.5 to 4mg per minute, depending on the condition and response of the patient
- Administer concurrently with oxygen

### **Liver impairment**

- As doxapram is primarily metabolised by the liver, use with care in patients with hepatic dysfunction

## Monitoring

- Frequent arterial blood gas measurements are necessary
- Blood pressure, and deep tendon reflexes should be monitored

## Further information

- Respiratory stimulant effect of doxapram may not outlast the residual effects of the depressant drugs - patients will need to be closely monitored until fully alert for 30 to 60 minutes
- Do not use with mechanical ventilation
- The infusion may also be prepared in sodium chloride 0.9% if required - but consider sodium load in patients with impaired cardiac function <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- **Refer to SPC for other precautions**

## Storage

- Store below 25°C
- Do not refrigerate

## References

SPC Doxapram injection October 2022

1: Injectable Medicines guide, downloaded from Medusa 24/05/2025

## Therapeutic classification

Respiratory stimulant