Diphenhydramine Intravenous for Adults

Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

Important information

- Unlicensed preparation
- Intended use is for (primarily) Haem/Onc patients experiencing a hypersensitivity reaction who require an IV antihistamine whilst chlorphenamine IV is temporarily unavailable (product shortage)

Available preparations

Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride injection, USP 50mg /1 ml (Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.)Â

Reconstitution

Already in solution

Infusion fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9%

Methods of intravenous administration

Slow intravenous injection (treatment of a hypersensitivity reaction)

- Can dilute with Sodium chloride 0.9% to produce a suitable volume
- Administer at a maximum rate of 25mg per minute

Intermittent intravenous infusion (prevention of hypersensitivity reactions)

- Add required dose toÂ 50mL infusion fluid and administer over 15 minutes [ref 1]

Dose in adults

Usual dose

- Give 10 to 50mg at a rate generally not exceeding 25mg per minute
- Maximum daily dose is 400mg

Monitoring

- May cause drowsiness and has an additive effect with alcoholÂ
- More likely to cause dizziness, sedation and hypotension in elderly patients

Storage

Protect from light - keep covered in carton until time of useÂ

Store at 20-25^{0}C, excursions permitted to 15-30^{0}C

References

SPC: Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride injection, USP 50mg/ml (Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc.) Sept 2023

1. BCCA reference attached (management of infusion related reactions)

Therapeutic classification

Antihistamine