Argipressin (EMBESIN brand) Intravenous Infusion for Adults (analogue of vasopressin)

Who can administer

Administration RESTRICTED - see Appendix 1

Important information

- **ARGIPRESSIN is the synthetic analogue of VASOPRESSIN. The two terms may be used interchangeably**
- **This monograph refers only to the Embesin brand.** Other brands of argipressin/vasopressin require different dilutions- contact pharmacy in the event alternative preparations are being used
- For use in critical care areas only
- **Take great care to ensure the correct product and dilution is being used, and that infusion pump settings are correct**

Available preparations

Embesin 40 units per 2ml ampoule (argipressin)

Reconstitution

Already in solution

Draw up using a 5 micron filter needle

Infusion fluids

Glucose 5% (preferred) [ref 1] or Sodium chloride 0.9%

Methods of intravenous administration

Continuous intravenous infusion (using an electronically controlled infusion device)

- Add 40 units (2ml) to 48ml infusion fluid - **note change in concentration from previous products**
- Central line administration is generally recommended [ref 2]

Dose in adults

Septic shock (in addition to conventional vasopressor therapy with catecholamines)

- Ideally started within the first six hours after the onset of septic shock, or within 3 hours of onset in patients on high doses of catecholamines
- Administer at a **rate of 0.01 units per minute (0.75ml/hour of a 40 unit/50ml solution).**
- Dependent on the clinical response, the dose may be increased every 15 to 20 minutes up to 0.03 units per minute (2.25ml/hour of 40 unit/50ml solution)
- Doses above 0.03 units per minute should only be used as emergency treatment, as this may cause gut and skin necrosis and increase the risk of cardiac arrest
- The treatment duration should be chosen according to the individual clinical picture butÂ should preferably last for at least 48 hours
- Treatment with argipressin must not be discontinued abruptly but should be weaned off gradually in accordance with the clinical course of the patient
- Administer via central line only

Monitoring

- Myocardial and gut ischaemia, myocardial and gut infarction and reduced perfusion of the extremities have been known to occur

Storage

- Store between 2 to 8^{0}C

References

SPC Embesin February 2024

1: Injectable medicines guide, accessed via Medusa 22/04/2026

2. UpToDate, downloaded 28/04/2026

Therapeutic classification

Posterior pituitary hormones and antagonists