

DRUG:	IRON POLYMALTOSE COMPLEX
SYNONYMS:	
TRADE NAME:	FERRUM H, FERROSIG
DRUG CLASS:	Iron supplement
AVAILABILITY:	Ampoule containing a standardised complex of iron-polymaltose, equivalent to 100mg iron/2mL. Also contains sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment. ⁵⁰
pH:	6.0 (tolerance of 5.2 – 6.5 at 20°C) ^{90,91}
PREPARATION:	Not applicable.
ADMINISTRATION:	<p>I.M. Injection: - (Ferrum H and Ferrosig) Administer undiluted. A method of ventrogluteal injection according to Hochstetter is recommended. (see product information for details).⁵⁰ After the injection, the needle is slowly withdrawn and pressure from a finger applied beside the puncture site for about one minute. The patient should move around after the injection.⁵⁰ N.B. The incorrect injection technique may result in pain and persistent discolouration of the skin.⁵⁰</p> <p>S.C. Injection: - Not recommended.</p> <p>I.V. Injection: - Not recommended.</p> <p>I.V. Infusion: - Ferrosig only. (See Special Notes) Suitable, for total dose infusion. Add the calculated dose to 500mL of sodium chloride 0.9% (up to 2500mg may be given in 500mL) and begin the infusion at 5-10 drops per minute (equivalent to 20-40mL/hour). If well tolerated, after 50mL, the rate may be increased to 30 drops per minute (equivalent to 120mL/hour).⁵⁰</p>
STABILITY:	<p>Storage: - Do not freeze. Protect from light.⁵⁰</p> <p>Diluted Solution: - Protect from light and use within 24 hours of preparation.⁹¹</p>
COMPATIBILITY:	<p>Compatible Fluids: - Sodium chloride 0.9%.⁵⁰</p> <p>Compatible Drugs: - Not recommended (no information).</p> <p>Compatible via Y-Site: - Not recommended. Do not mix with acidic substances or those with a strong reducing effect.⁵⁰</p> <p>Compatible in Syringe: - Not recommended (no information).</p>
INCOMPATIBILITY:	<p>Incompatible Fluids: - Acidic substances or substances with a strong reducing effect. Do not mix with other fluids.⁵⁰</p> <p>Incompatible Drugs: - Acidic substances or substances with a strong reducing effect. Do not mix with other drugs.⁵⁰</p>
SPECIAL NOTES:	<p>Adverse reactions, both local and systemic, are rare but include anaphylaxis. Adrenaline and facilities for cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be available during administration.⁵⁰ In-house administration guidelines may be available, check with your pharmacist or drug information centre.</p> <p>Nausea and epigastric upset, during IV administration may indicate an excessive infusion rate.⁵⁰</p> <p>Refer to the pharmacy for total dose calculations (based on body weight and haemoglobin).</p> <p>IM injection - Regular determination of haemoglobin is recommended. May be given as alternate day injections of 2mL (or a larger dose of 4mL at longer intervals) until the total dose is</p>

attained. Maximum single daily dose for an adult is 4mL. Following IM injection the patient may experience pain at injection site, local inflammation with inguinal lymphadenopathy and/or lower quadrant abdominal pain.⁵⁰

Patients with severe renal impairment may receive either small intravenous bolus doses or intravenous infusions. Administration and dosing technique varies considerably. Check your hospital's dialysis protocol.

Large IV iron doses may cause false deviation of laboratory results. Calcium, bilirubin and serum iron determination results should be interpreted with caution.⁵⁰

Note that elemental iron doses using different iron complexes are not directly comparable.

N.B. Some hospitals have used Ferrosig and Ferrum H interchangeably for intravenous use. Although the formulation and pH of these products appear to be the same, off-label usage and patient consent may require consideration.

NEW REFERENCES

90. Wilson L. pH information Ferrum H. (email communication). Aspen Pharmacare Australia. April 2007.

91. Medical Department. pH information Ferrosig. (personal communication). Sigma Pharmaceuticals. April 2007.

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