AMIODARONE

BRAND NAME  CORDARONE X, AMIODARONE GH

DRUG CLASS  Antiarrhythmic

AVAILABILITY  Ampoule contains 150 mg/3 mL of amiodarone. Also contains polysorbate-80 and benzyl alcohol. The solution is clear and slightly yellow.\(^1\)
  Amiodarone GH also contains sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.\(^1\)

pH  4\(^2\)

PREPARATION  Dilute before use.

STABILITY  Cordarone: store below 25 °C. Protect from light. Do not refrigerate.\(^1\)
  Amiodarone GH: store below 25 °C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.\(^1\)
  Infusion solution: use within 12 hours.\(^1\) Concentrations of 600 microgram/mL (equivalent to 1 ampoule [150 mg] in 250 mL) and above are stable for at least 24 hours in glucose 5% in glass, polyolefin or rigid PVC containers.\(^2\)
  Infusion solutions that contain less than 1 ampoule (150 mg) in 250 mL are unstable and should not be used.\(^2\)

ADMINISTRATION

IM injection  Not recommended

SUBCUT injection  Not recommended

IV injection

In emergency situations only. Dilute 150–300 mg in 10–20 mL of glucose 5% and inject over 1 to 2 minutes.\(^1\) This method is generally not recommended because of the risk of severe hypotension and circulatory collapse.\(^1\)

Preferred.

Dilute the loading dose in 100–250 mL of glucose 5% and infuse over 20 minutes to 2 hours. Use a central venous catheter if possible, or a large peripheral vein.\(^1,3\)

For continuous infusion, dilute up to 1200 mg in 500 mL of glucose 5%.\(^1\)

Plebitis is common, use a central line for continuous infusions and for concentrations greater than 2 mg/mL.\(^2,4\) See SPECIAL NOTES

IV use in infants and children

Dilute to a concentration of not less than 600 microgram/mL and infuse over 20 to 120 minutes. May be given as a continuous infusion, adjust rate according to patient response.\(^5\) Maximum concentration is 6 mg/mL.\(^2,6\)

COMPATIBILITY

Fluids  Glucose 5%\(^1,2\)

Y-site  At 4 mg/mL and/or 6 mg/mL of amiodarone: adrenaline (epinephrine) hydrochloride\(^2\), amikacin\(^2\), atracurium\(^2\), atropine\(^2\), calcium chloride\(^2\), caspofungin\(^2\), ceftaroline fosamil\(^2\), ciprofloxacin\(^2\), clindamycin\(^2\), dexmedetomidine\(^2\), dobutamine\(^2\), dopamine\(^2\), erythromycin\(^2\), esmolol\(^2\), fentanyl\(^2\), fluconazole\(^2\), gentamicin\(^2\), glyceryl trinitrate\(^2\), insulin (short-acting)\(^2\), isoprenaline\(^2\), labetalol\(^2\), lidocaine (lignocaine)\(^2\), methylprednisolone sodium succinate\(^2\), metoprolol\(^2\), midazolam\(^2\), milrinone\(^2\), morphine sulfate\(^2\), noradrenaline (norepinephrine)\(^2\), phenolamine\(^2\), phenylephrine\(^2\), potassium chloride\(^2\), tirofiban\(^2\), tobramycin\(^2\), vancomycin\(^2\), vasopressin\(^2\), vecuronium\(^2\)

INCOMPATIBILITY

Fluids  Sodium chloride solutions\(^1,2\), Plasma-Lyte 148\(^7\)

Drugs  Aciclovir\(^8\), aminophylline\(^1,2\), ampicillin\(^8\), argatroban\(^2\), azithromycin\(^8\), bivalirudin\(^2\), calcium folinate\(^8\), cefotaxime\(^8\), ceftazidime\(^2\), ceftobiprole medocaril\(^8\), digoxin\(^2\), ertapenem\(^8\), fluocoxidin\(^2\), foscamur\(^8\), heparin sodium\(^1,2\), hydrocortisone sodium succinate\(^8\), ketorolac\(^8\), imipenem-cilastatin\(^2\), magnesium sulfate\(^2\), meropenem\(^8\), micafungin\(^2\), phenobarbital (phenobarbitone)\(^8\), piperacillin-tazobactam (EDTA-free)\(^2\), potassium acetate\(^8\), potassium phosphates\(^2\), quinine\(^1\), ranitidine\(^8\), sodium acetate\(^8\), sodium bicarbonate\(^2\), sodium phosphates\(^8\), thiopental sodium\(^8\), tigecycline\(^8\), verapamil\(^8\)
**SPECIAL NOTES**

Continuous cardiac monitoring is required when given by IV injection. Monitor blood pressure closely. Severe hypotension can occur with IV injection or if the infusion is given too fast.¹

Monitor the injection site closely. Amiodarone is an irritant. When given into a peripheral vein, injection site reactions are common and include severe pain, phlebitis and necrosis. The risk of phlebitis increases with the dose and duration of the infusion.⁴

Amiodarone is adsorbed onto PVC and leaches plasticiser from PVC.¹,² For continuous infusions that will exceed 2 hours, the solution must be prepared in rigid PVC or non-PVC burettes e.g. Braun Ecoflac.¹,² Preferably use non-DEHP sets.¹,²

Do not give products that contain benzyl alcohol to neonates.

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**REFERENCES**