SUXAMETHONIUM

SYNONYMS Choline chloride succinate, suxamethonium chloride, succinylcholine chloride

BRAND NAME SUXAMETHONIUM CHLORIDE INJECTION BP

DRUG CLASS Depolarising neuromuscular blocker

AVAILABILITY Ampoule contains 100 mg/2 mL of suxamethonium chloride.¹ The solution is clear and colourless.²

WARNING Paralyzing agent - causes respiratory arrest. Facilities for maintenance of airway and a reversal agent must be readily available.³

pH 3–5¹

PREPARATION Not required

STABILITY Ampoule: store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze.¹ Stable below 25 °C for 1 month. Discard any unused product after that time, do not return to the fridge.⁴

Infusion solution: use within 24 hours.¹

ADMINISTRATION

IM injection Suitable only when a vein for IV administration is inaccessible. Do not inject more than 150 mg.¹ Inject into a large muscle preferably high into the deltoid muscle.⁵

SUBCUT injection Not recommended

IV injection For short procedures inject over 10 to 30 seconds.¹ Flush the line after each dose to avoid re-paralysis during recovery.³

IV infusion For prolonged procedures dilute to a concentration of 1–2 mg/mL in sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5% and infuse at a rate of 2.5–4.3 mg/minute.¹ Titrate according to patient response.

Flush or change the line after the infusion to avoid re-paralysis during recovery.³

IV use for infants and children Inject diluted or undiluted over 10 to 30 seconds.¹,⁶ Flush the line after each dose to avoid re-paralysis during recovery.³

Continuous infusion in children and neonates is not recommended due to the risk of malignant hyperthermia.¹

COMPATIBILITY Fluids Glucose 5%,¹ Hartmann’s⁵, Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site⁷, Ringer’s⁵, sodium chloride 0.9%,¹ sodium chloride in glucose solutions⁵

Y-site At 20 mg/mL of suxamethonium: heparin sodium⁵

At 2 mg/mL of suxamethonium: palonosetron⁵

INCOMPATIBILITY Fluids No information

Drugs Azathioprine⁸, benzylpenicillin⁹, ganciclovir⁸, indometacin⁸, phenobarbitone (phenobarbital)⁸, quinine¹, sodium bicarbonate⁸, thiopental sodium⁸

REFERENCES