FOSCARNET

SYNONYMS
Foscarnet sodium

BRAND NAME
FOSCAVIR

DRUG CLASS
Antiviral

AVAILABILITY
Glass bottle contains 6 g/250 mL of foscarnet sodium hexahydrate. Also contains hydrochloric acid. The solution is clear and colourless. Each 6 g of foscarnet contains 1.375 g (60 mmol) of sodium.

pH
7.4

PREPARATION
Not required

STABILITY
Store below 30 °C. Do not refrigerate. Once open use within 24 hours. Diluted solutions at concentration of 12 mg/mL are stable in PVC bags for 24 hours at 2 to 8°C and at 25°C. Do not refrigerate undiluted solutions (24 mg/mL).

ADMINISTRATION

**IM injection**
Not recommended

**SUBCUT injection**
Not recommended

**IV injection**
Not recommended

**IV infusion**
Infuse undiluted into a central venous catheter. Or dilute the dose with an equal volume of a compatible fluid to make a concentration of 12 mg/mL and infuse into a peripheral vein. Infuse induction dose over at least 1 hour and maintenance doses over at least 2 hours. See SPECIAL NOTES

**IV use for infants and children**
Infuse undiluted through a central venous catheter or dilute to 12 mg/mL and infuse through a peripheral line. Infuse doses up to 60 mg/kg over at least 1 hour and doses up to 120 mg/kg over at least 2 hours.

**Other**
Suitable for intravitreal injection in eye surgery. Very low doses are used.

COMPATIBILITY

**Fluids**
Glucose 5%, Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site, sodium chloride 0.9%

**Y-site**
Amikacin, aminophylline, ampicillin, aztreonam, cefazolin, cefoxitin, ceftriaxone, clindamycin, defibrotide, dexamethasone, dopamine, erythromycin, fluconazole, furosemide (frusemide), gentamicin, heparin sodium, hydrocortisone sodium succinate, hydromorphone, imipenem-clisatatin, metoclopramide, metronidazole, morphine sulfate, ranitidine, ticarcillin-clavulanate, tobramycin

INCOMPATIBILITY

**Fluids**
Glucose 30%, Hartmann’s, Ringer’s, solutions containing calcium

**Drugs**
Aciclovir, amiodarone, calcium salts, calcium folinate, caspofungin, ciprofloxacin, digoxin, dobutamine, dolasetron, droperidol, ganciclovir, haloperidol lactate, hydralazine, labetolol, methylprednisolone sodium succinate, midazolam, mycophenolate mofetil, noradrenaline (norepinephrine), ondansetron, pentamidine, promethazine, thiopental sodium, vancomycin, verapamil

SPECIAL NOTES
Monitor the injection site as foscarnet may cause thrombophlebitis. Hydrate the patient with 500–1000 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% to reduce the risk of renal toxicity prior to the infusion. Contact with skin and eyes may cause local irritation and a burning sensation. If accidental contact occurs rinse the exposed area with cold water.

REFERENCES