SUXAMETHONIUM

SYNONYMS  
succinylcholine chloride

BRAND NAME  
SUXAMETHONIUM CHLORIDE INJECTION BP (JUNO)

DRUG CLASS  
Depolarising neuromuscular blocker

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

WARNING  
Paralysing agent - causes respiratory arrest. Do not use without adequate sedation. Facilities for maintenance of airway and a reversal agent must be readily available.¹,³

pH  
3–5¹

PREPARATION  
Not required

STABILITY  
Ampoule: store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze.¹ Stable for 30 days below 25 °C without protection from light. 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 the deltoid.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 to effect.  
Use an infusion pump.  
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  
Giving other drugs via Y-site with neuromuscular blockers is not recommended.  
At 2 mg/mL of suxamethonium: palonosetron⁵  
At 8 mg/mL of suxamethonium: amikacin⁶, aztreonam⁶, buprenorphine⁶, calcium chloride⁶, calcium gluconate⁶, cefalotin⁶, cefazolin⁶, cefotaxime⁶, cefoxitin⁶, cefazidime⁶, ceftriaxone⁶, ciclosporin⁶, clindamycin⁶, dexamethasone⁶, digoxin⁶, dobutamine⁶, dopamine⁶, ephedrine sulfate⁶, erythromycin⁶, esmolol⁶, fentanyl⁶, fluconazole⁶, furosemide⁶, gentamicin⁶, glyceryl trinitrate⁶, hydrocortisone sodium succinate⁶, labetalol⁶, lidocaine⁶, magnesium sulfate⁶, methyprednisolone sodium succinate⁶, metoclopramide⁶, midazolam⁶, morphine sulfate⁶, noradrenaline (norepinephrine)⁸, ranitidine⁶, sodium nitroprusside⁶, tobramycin⁶, vancomycin⁶, verapamil⁸  
At 20 mg/mL of suxamethonium: heparin sodium⁵
INCOMPATIBILITY

Fluids  No information
Drugs  Azathioprine\(^9\), benzylpenicillin\(^9\), ganciclovir\(^9\), indometacin\(^9\), phenobarbital\(^9\), potassium chloride\(^1\) see SPECIAL NOTES, quinine\(^1\), sodium bicarbonate\(^5\), thiopental sodium\(^9\)

SPECIAL NOTES  Continuous monitoring is required.

The product information for potassium chloride states incompatibility with suxamethonium, however compatibility information is available.\(^8\,^9\)

REFERENCES

8. Trissel LA, Leising NC. Trissel’s Tables of physical compatibility. Lake Forest IL: Multimatrix; 1996.