

GLUCAGON

ACTIONS AND USES

Glucagon is a pancreatic enzyme which mobilises liver glycogen and increases hepatic glucose production. It is used in the management of resistant hypoglycaemia.

DOSAGE

200 micrograms/kg as a single dose.

ADMINISTRATION

By rapid IV bolus in < 1 minute.

RECONSTITUTION

Glucagon is available as a dry powder in vials containing 1mg (1 unit) with diluent (1ml). Sterile water for injection can be used instead of diluent provided if appropriate.

Glucagon 100 micrograms/ml

Add 1 ml of diluent provided to 1mg vial and shake well to mix.

Withdraw 1ml of this solution and dilute with 9ml sodium chloride 0.9% and shake well to mix. DO NOT use unless this final solution is clear.

Incompatibilities

Do not mix with other drugs or infusions fluids (no data available).

STORAGE

Use the reconstituted solution immediately. Store unopened vials at room temperature.

MONITORING

Monitor blood glucose concentration closely as rebound hypoglycaemia may occur.

Monitor heart rate and blood pressure. Observe for vomiting and diarrhoea, glucagon relaxes the smooth muscle of the GI tract. Rarely hypokalaemia has been reported. Caution is appropriate during use in small for gestational age babies as the glycogen stores may not be adequate. Glucagon is not effective in patients with marked depletion of liver glycogen, adrenal insufficiency or chronic hypoglycaemia. Hypersensitivity reactions are reported, care is needed during reconstitution.