

PROPRANOLOL

ACTION and USES

Propranolol is a β -adrenoceptor blocking drug which is used in the management of tachyarrhythmias, cyanotic episodes in fallot's tetralogy (on advice of consultant paediatric cardiologist) and thyrotoxicosis.

DOSAGE

IV 10-50micrograms/kg 6 or 8 hourly
(increasing up to 100micrograms/kg in fallot's tetralogy).

ORAL 250-500micrograms/kg 6 or 8 hourly
(increasing up to 1mg/kg in fallot's tetralogy).

ADMINISTRATION

By slow IV injection over at least 1 minute under ECG.

RECONSTITUTION

Propranolol injection is available as a solution containing 1mg/ml in 1ml ampoules. Dilution is not necessary but it is appropriate if the measured volume to provide dose is less than 0.1ml. An oral solution containing 1mg/ml can be obtained but is not stocked in pharmacy.

Propanolol 100micrograms/ml

Add 1ml propranolol 1mg/ml to 9ml Sodium chloride 0.9% and shake well to mix.

Other Compatible Diluent

glucose 5%.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not mix or infuse with other drugs except Dobutamine, Heparin, Morphine and Potassium Chloride which can be coadministered at Y-site.

STORAGE

Discard opened ampoules and diluted solution immediately after use. Store below 30°C and protect from light, in iIV medicine cupboard.

MONITORING

Intravenous propanolol should be administered under ECG. Monitor blood pressure, peripheral circulation, blood glucose for hypoglycemia, and respiratory function. Gastrointestinal disturbances may occur. Half life may be increased in severe hepatic and renal impairment. Cimetidine increases plasma levels of propranolol, indometacin may decrease hypotensive effect and sympathomimetic agents will counteract the effects of propranolol, particularly isoprenaline for its chronotropic and partial inotropic action.