

CLARITHROMYCIN

ACTION and USE

This antibiotic is used primarily on the neonatal unit to treat ureaplasma or chlamydial infection unresponsive to erythromycin. There is limited information on its use in neonates and it is therefore a consultant's decision to treat.

DOSAGE

IV/oral 7.5mg/kg/dose every 12 hours

Note IV dose is for child 1 month or over must be consultant decision to use IV.

ADMINISTRATION

As a short infusion over 60 minutes.

Recommended to use large proximal vein where possible

RECONSTITUTION

Parenteral clarithromycin is available as a dry powder containing 500mg per vial. The oral preparation contains 125mg/5ml (25mg/ml). Note other strengths available.

Clarithromycin 50mg/ml

The volume of water to add depends on the manufacturer: Check brand

For Bowmed brand: Add 9.25ml of water for injections to 500mg vial and shake well (contact pharmacy if different brand)

This solution MUST BE DILUTED FURTHER.

Clarithromycin 2mg/ml for infusion

Add 0.4ml of 50mg/ml clarithromycin to 9.6ml sodium chloride 0.9% and shake well to mix.

Other compatible diluent

Glucose5%

STORAGE

Use reconstituted parenteral solutions immediately, do not store. The reconstituted oral suspension is stable for 14 days. Do not store above 25°C. Do not refrigerate or freeze

MONITORING

Observe vein for irritation, phlebitis and thrombophlebitis. Nausea and vomiting may occur. Monitor for hypoglycaemia. Monitor liver function as hepatitis and cholestasis

have been reported. Monitor serum creatinine as nephritis and renal failure have been reported rarely. It may increase serum phenytoin levels.

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Other Professionals Consulted

Local Pharmacy meeting

Guideline Title

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Implementation / Review Dates

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Next Review – 12/06/16