

# Amiodarone

**FORM** Ampoules containing 150mg/3ml Concentrate solution for infusion

**INDICATION** Ventricular Arrhythmias

**DOSE RANGE**

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
1 to 6 months	5mg/kg over 4 hours	Loading dose	IV Infusion
	Initially <b>5micrograms/kg/minute</b> Increase according to response to a <u>maximum</u> dose of <b>15micrograms/kg/minute</b>	Continuous Infusion	IV

**PRESCRIPTION OF CONTINUOUS INFUSION**

**SINGLE STRENGTH = 50mg/kg in 50ml** Glucose 5%  
This gives:-

- 5 microgram/kg/minute at 0.3ml/hour

**DOUBLE STRENGTH (for babies weighing < 600grams)**  
**= 100mg/kg in 50ml infusion fluid**

This gives:-

- 10 microgram/kg/minute at 0.3ml/hour

(For stability purposes, a double strength infusion should be used for babies weighing less than 600grams)

**RECONSTITUTION**

Not required

**DILUTION**

**For continuous Infusion**

**SINGLE STRENGTH**  
**Using 50mg/ml injection**

1 x wt (kg) is the number of ml of amiodarone 50mg/ml to be diluted up to 50ml total with infusion fluid (equivalent to **50mg /kg in 50ml**)

**DOUBLE STRENGTH**  
**Using 50mg/ml injection**

2 x wt (kg) is the number of ml of amiodarone 50mg/ml to be diluted up to 50ml total with infusion fluid (equivalent to **100mg/kg in 50ml**)

**METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Loading Dose**

5mg/kg can be administered as a separate infusion over 4 hours **OR** given from the infusion as prepared above

SINGLE strength - Give 5ml (5mg/kg) over 4 hours

DOUBLE strength – Give 2.5ml (5mg/kg) over 4 hours

**For continuous Infusion**

By continuous intravenous infusion, flow rate adjusted according to the baby's response (see prescription section for details).

Administration via a **central venous catheter** is recommended.

# West of Scotland NEONATAL PARENTERAL Drug Monographs

## COMPATIBILITY

<b>Solution compatibility</b>	glucose 5% ONLY
<b>Solution incompatibility</b>	sodium Chloride
<b>IV Line compatibility</b>	adrenaline, clarithromycin, dopamine, fluconazole, gentamicin, hydralazine, labetalol, linezolid, metronidazole midazolam, milrinone, , morphine, , vancomycin, vecuronium,  <i>Variable compatibility (dobutamine, insulin, magnesium sulphate, potassium chloride, sodium nitroprusside) Contact pharmacy for advice</i>
<b>IV Line incompatibility</b>	Imipenem, furosemide, heparin, meropenam, phenobarbital, phenytoin, sodium bicarbonate

**THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE PLEASE CONTACT PHARMACY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON COMPATIBILITY WITH ANY MEDICINES NOT INCLUDED**

## CAUTIONS, CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

See Summary of Product Characteristics and most recent edition of BNF for Children (links below)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Monitoring requirements

- Liver function and thyroid-function tests required before treatment and then every 6 months.
- Serum potassium (risk of hypokalaemia)
- Blood pressure (circulatory collapse precipitated by rapid administration or over dosage).

### Other Information

- This product may contain benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with a fatal "Gasping syndrome" in premature infants.
- Can cause photosensitivity (caution with phototherapy) and persistent slate-grey skin discolouration.

**PH** 3.5 – 4.5 (undiluted)

**LICENSED STATUS** Not licensed for use in children

**LINKS** [BNF for Children](#) / [Electronic Medicines Compendium](#):

**APPLICABLE POLICIES** [West of Scotland Neonatal Guidelines](#):

Consult local policy if applicable

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**Administer reconstituted solutions immediately.**

**All vials, ampoules and infusion bags are for single use only unless otherwise stated.**

Dose may vary depending on indication, age, renal function, hepatic function, and concomitant medications.  
This monograph should be used in conjunction with the package insert, BNF for Children, and Summary of Product Characteristics. For further advice contact your clinical pharmacist or pharmacy department.