

Digoxin

Neonatal

Special note: Special care with calculating doses in neonates - frequently involved in medication error. Check the doses carefully because an overdose can cause death.

FORM Oral Liquid 250micrograms/5ml

INDICATION Control of specific arrhythmias

DOSE RANGE

LOADING DOSE (Assess clinical response before giving second and third doses)

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
Neonate < 1.5kg	12.5micrograms/kg	Initial Dose	Oral
	6.2micrograms/kg	Second dose after 6 hours	
	6.2micrograms/kg	Third dose after a further 6 hours	
Neonate 1.5kg -2.5kg	15 micrograms/kg	Initial Dose	Oral
	7.5micrograms/kg	Second dose after 6 hours	
	7.5micrograms/kg	Third dose after a further 6 hours	
Neonate > 2.5kg Child 1 -6 months	23 micrograms /kg	Initial Dose	Oral
	11 micrograms /kg	Second dose after 6 hours	
	11 micrograms /kg	Third dose after a further 6 hours	

MAINTENANCE DOSE - Commence maintenance dose 12 hours after final loading dose

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
Premature Neonate	2-3micrograms/kg	12 hourly*	Oral
Neonate - 6 months	5 micrograms/kg	12 hourly*	

*Total daily maintenance dose can be given once daily

CAUTIONS, CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

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

In renal failure

Creatinine clearance (ml/minute/1.73m ²)	Dosage
10 – 50	50% of dose
<10	25% of dose

West of Scotland ORAL/ OTHER ROUTE Drug Monographs

FURTHER INFORMATION

- The dosage schedules are meant as guidelines and careful clinical observation and monitoring of serum digoxin levels should be used as a basis for adjustment of dosage.
- Reduced loading dose required if cardiac glycosides have been administered in the preceding two weeks
- Target plasma concentration 0.8-2.2micrograms/L
- Blood levels should be taken at least 6 hours after a dose of digoxin. Consult your pharmacist on when levels should be checked in relation to treatment duration

LICENSED STATUS

Licensed for use in all ages

LINKS

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

APPLICABLE POLICIES

[West of Scotland Neonatal Guidelines:](#)

Consult local policy if applicable

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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.