

Who can administer

Administration RESTRICTED - see [Appendix 1](#)

Important information

- For a 70kg patient, if a cumulative dose of 10mg/kg is needed this will amount to approximately **36 vials**
- Beware the risk of **extravasation**

Available preparations

Dantrium 20mg vial

Pack includes a single use filter device

Reconstitution

Water for injection ONLY

60ml per 20mg vial

- Vials should be shaken until the solution is clear
- Using the filter device provided, draw up the reconstituted solution into a syringe
- Use a new filter device for each vial
- Remove the filter device before attaching the syringe to an IV cannula or giving set

Infusion fluids

After reconstitution with Water for Injections, no further dilution permitted.

Methods of intravenous administration

Bolus intravenous injection

- **Management of malignant hyperthermia crisis (licensed^(ref 2,4), or neuroleptic malignant syndrome (unlicensed^(ref 1,3))**
 - Administer rapidly (over at least one minute)^(ref 2)

Intermittent intravenous infusion - using an electronically controlled infusion device

- **Prophylaxis of Malignant hyperthermia crisis^(ref 2,5) (unlicensed)**
 - Add required dose to an appropriate-size empty sterile IV plastic bag for administration - supplied from pharmacy
 - The required dose is administered over 60 minutes, with the infusion commencing approximately 75 minutes before anticipated anaesthesia
 - See 'dose' for details

Dose in adults

Management of malignant hyperthermia crisis

- **Give at least 2.5 mg/kg body weight (8-10 vials in adults)**
- As long as the main clinical symptoms of tachycardia, hypoventilation, sustained hyperacidity (pH and pCO₂ monitoring required) and hyperthermia persist, **bolus injection should be repeated** (suggested interval: every five minutes ^(ref 3))
- **In most cases, a total dose of 10 mg/kg body weight per 24 hours is sufficient**
- This dose (10 mg/kg) may need to be exceeded in individual cases
- Safe uses up to 40 mg/kg have been described
- Based on this experience, higher dosages can be administered in isolated cases if required
- **An alternative regimen may be used** ^(ref 4)
 - Initial dose: Give 2 to 3mg/kg, then 1mg/kg repeated if necessary; maximum 10mg/kg/course

Prophylaxis of malignant hyperthermia crisis (unlicensed use) ^(ref 1,2,5)

- Used for the prevention or attenuation of malignant hyperthermia crisis in adults thought to be at risk of developing this condition
- May be given orally or IV prior to surgery (oral dose differs from IV) ^(ref 1,5)
- IV dose: 2.5mg/kg may be given by intravenous infusion over 60 minutes commencing about 75 minutes before anticipated anaesthesia ^(ref 1,2,5)
- Further doses can be given during anaesthesia and surgery if signs of malignant hyperthermia develop

Management of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (unlicensed use) ^(ref 1,3)

- Give 1 to 2.5mg/kg initially
- If rapid resolution of hyperthermia and rigidity is observed, may follow with 1mg/kg every six hours up to a maximum cumulative dose of 10mg/kg/day, then switch to oral dosage

Further information

Care must be taken to prevent extravasation of the intravenous solution into the surrounding tissues.

- **Order code numbers for empty bags are:**
 - 500ml bag (Baxter E13050LPP)
 - These bags are to be stored beside and to be dispensed along with the Dantrolene injection (available to order from PASU)

Storage

- Store below 25⁰C
- Do not refrigerate or freeze

References

SPC 10th June 2022

1: Martindale, accessed online 23/01/2025

2: Injectable medicines guide Medusa UK site downloaded 23/01/2025

3: UpToDate accessed online 23/01/2025

4: BNF accessed online 23/01/2025

5: Injectable Drugs guide- accessed via Medicinescomplete 23/01/2025

Therapeutic classification

Direct acting skeletal muscle relaxant