## Famotidine Intravenous for Adults

## Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

## Important information

- Unlicensed preparation


## Available preparations

Famotidine 20 mg per 2 ml vial

## Reconstitution

Already in solution
Dilute further prior to administration

## Infusion fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9\% or Glucose 5\%

## Methods of intravenous administration

Intermittent intravenous infusion (preferred route)

- Dilute 20 mg with 100 ml infusion fluid, and administer over 15 to 30 minutess


## Slow intravenous injection

- Dilute each 20 mg to a volume of 5 to 10 ml with infusion fluid and administer over at least two minutes


## Dose in adults

## Usual dose

- Give 20 mg every 12 hours until oral therapy can be introduced

Premedication of infusion reactions $\left.{ }^{(r e f} 2\right)$

- Give 20 mg thirty to sixty minutes prior to infusion
- Usually given in conjunction with an H 1 antihistamine and glucocorticoid

Prophylaxis of acid aspiration (Mendelson's) syndrome ${ }^{(r e f 2)}$

- Give 20 mg forty to ninety minutes before induction of general anaesthesia

Prophylaxis of upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage from stress ulceration in seriously ill patients ${ }^{\text {(ref 2) }}$

- Give 20 mg twice daily


## Renal impairment

- Complete atrioventricular block has been reported in association with administration of famotidine injection
- Prolonged QT interval has been reported in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment ${ }^{\text {(ref 2) }}$
- The manufacturers advise that CNS adverse effects have been reported in patients with moderate and severe renal insufficiency
- For patients with $\mathrm{CrCl}<50 \mathrm{~mL} /$ minute: advise increase the dosing interval to $36-48$ hours ${ }^{\text {(ref } 2,3)}$


## Storage

Storage in a refrigerator at $2-8^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

## References

1: SPC for Famotidine IV (APP Pharmaceuticals) revised July 2011
2: UpToDate, accessed 22nd July 2020
3: Renal Drugs Handbook, accessed 22nd July 2020
4: Complete Atrioventricular Block and Cardiac Arrest following Intravenous Famotidine Administration Anesthesiology 2 1999, Vol.90, 623-626. doi:

## Therapeutic classification

H2-receptor antagonists

