

## Who can administer

Administration RESTRICTED - see [Appendix 1](#)

## Important information

- Critical care administration ONLY.
- Deep sedation (RAAS < -3) is mandatory and should be assessed prior to commencing an neuromuscular blockade (NMBA) <sup>(ref 1)</sup>
- All patients on NMBA infusions should be administered regular lubricating eye care and eyelids should remain closed to protect against corneal injury <sup>(ref 2)</sup>
- For Y-site compatibility [see below](#)

## Available preparations

Nimbex 2mg/ml solution for injection/infusion

Cisatracurium Kalceks 2mg/ml solution for injection/infusion

## Reconstitution

Already in solution

## Infusion fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9% (preferred) or Glucose 5%

## Methods of intravenous administration

### **Bolus intravenous injection**

- Loading dose only

### **Continuous intravenous infusion (using an electronically controlled infusion device)**

- Use undiluted

## Dose in adults

### **Intensive Care Unit Paralysis** <sup>(ref 1)</sup>

- To facilitate mechanical ventilation
- For shivering from therapeutic hypothermia (unlicensed) <sup>(ref 2)</sup>
- Use for up to 48hours in patients with early Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) with PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> <150 (unlicensed) <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

### **Dose**

- Initial bolus dose of 0.15mg/kg, followed immediately by a continuous infusion of 1 to 3 mcg/kg/minute.
- Adjust rate thereafter accordingly.

- The infusion rate may range from 0.5 to 10mcg/kg/minute
- See table 1 below

**Table 1: Cisatracurium loading and maintenance rates using 2mg/ml solution**

Weight (kg)	Loading Dose (0.15mg/kg)	Maintenance infusion 1mcg/kg/minute	Maintenance infusion 3mcg/kg/minute
40kg	6mg (3ml)	2.4mg/hr (1.2ml/hr)	7.2mg/hr (3.6ml/hr)
45kg	6.8mg (3.4mL)	2.8mg/hr (1.4ml/hr)	8.2mg/hr (4.1ml/hr)
50kg	7.6mg (3.8ml)	3mg/hr (1.5ml/hr)	9mg/hr (4.5ml/hr)
55kg	8.2mg (4.1ml)	3.4mg/hr (1.7ml/hr)	10mg/hr (5ml ml/hr)
60kg	9mg (4.5ml)	3.6mg/hr (1.8ml/hr)	10.8mg/hr (5.4ml/hr)
65kg	9.8mg (4.9ml)	4mg/hr (2 ml/hr)	11.8mg/hr (5.9ml/hr)
70kg	10.6mg (5.3ml)	4.2mg/hr (2.1ml/hr)	12.6mg/hr (6.3ml/hr)
75kg	11.2mg (5.6ml)	4.6mg/hr (2.3ml/hr)	13.6mg/hr (6.8ml/hr)
80kg	12mg (6ml)	4.8mg/hr (2.4ml/hr)	14.4mg/hr (7.2ml/hr)

To avoid excessive dosage in obese patients, consider dose calculation using ideal body-weight <sup>(ref 3)</sup>  
 Ideal Body Weight - [MDCalc](#)

## Monitoring

- Monitor neuromuscular function during usage to individualise dosage requirements
- Neuromuscular blockade should be reviewed with a view to stop after 48hours if PF ratio >150, regardless of mean airway pressure <sup>(ref 5)</sup>
- Monitor for acid-base and/or serum electrolyte abnormalities that may increase/decrease the sensitivity of a patient to neuromuscular blockade agents

## Further information

- Patients with myasthenia gravis and other forms of neuromuscular disease have shown greatly increased sensitivity to non-depolarising blocking agents. A loading dose of not more than 0.02mg/kg is recommended in these patients.
- Degradation of cisatracurium has been demonstrated to occur more rapidly in glucose 5% than in sodium chloride 0.9% and it is recommended that glucose 5% is not used as the diluent in preparing cisatracurium for infusion <sup>(ref 4)</sup>
- NMBAs are hydrophilic compounds with small Vd, suggesting that their distribution into adipose tissue is limited <sup>(ref 1)</sup>

## Storage

- Store in a refrigerator (2-8°C)
- **SAFETY:** Must be segregated from other drugs in fridge to avoid inadvertent drug selection errors <sup>(ref 6)</sup>
  - Section in fridge must have adequate warning labels

## References

SPC Nimbex. Aug 2021,Â

SPC Cisatracurium Kalceks Sept 2019

1. Critical Illness- medicinescomplete.com. Accessed Jan 13th 2022.
2. Cisatracurium: Drug Information. Uptodate. Accessed Jan 13th 2022
3. BNF - medicinescomplete.com. Accessed Jan 11th 2022.
4. AHSP - medicinescomplete.com. Accessed Jan 11th 2022
5. VerbalÂ communication with Prof.Â Patrick Neligan 23rd Feb 2022
- 6: ISMP Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for Hospitals 2020-2021. Accessed Jan 26th 2022

## Therapeutic classification

Neuromuscular blocker