

Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

Important information

- Zanamivir is indicated for the treatment of complicated and potentially life-threatening influenza A or B virus infection when:
 - The patient's influenza virus is known or suspected to be resistant to anti-influenza medicinal products other than zanamivir ^(ref 1) OR
 - Other anti-viral medicinal products for treatment of influenza, are not suitable for the individual patient. ^(ref 1,3) AND the patient has multi-organ involvement, or requires intensive care ^(ref 2)
 - Use should be supervised by a consultant clinical microbiologist/virologist or infectious diseases consultant and a consultant in intensive care medicine ^(ref 3)
- Treatment should commence as soon as possible and usually within 6 days of the onset of symptoms ^(ref 2)
- See under 'Dose' for adjustments required in **renal impairment**

Available preparations

Dectova 200mg per 20ml (10mg/mL) vial

Reconstitution

Already in solution

Infusion fluids

Sodium Chloride 0.9% **ONLY**

Methods of intravenous administration

Intermittent intravenous infusion (using an electronically controlled infusion device)

- Add the required dose to infusion fluid to make a final volume of 100ml or 250ml
 - Withdraw and discard a volume (equal to the volume of drug solution) from the infusion bag
- The infusion bag should be gently manipulated by hand to ensure it is mixed thoroughly
- Administer over 30 minutes ^(ref 1,3)
- See also under Further information- re administration undiluted

Dose in adults

Usual dose

- Give 600mg every 12 hours for 5 to 10 days ^(ref 2)

Renal impairment

- See Table 1 below

| Table 1: Doses in renal impairment | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| CrCl (mL/min) | Initial dose | Maintenance dose | Maintenance dose schedule |
| 50 to < 80 | 600mg | 400mg every 12 hours | Begin Maintenance dose 12 hours AFTER initial dose |
| 30 to < 50 | 600mg | 250mg every 12 hours | |
| 15 to < 30 | 600mg | 150mg every 12 hours | Begin Maintenance dose 24 hours AFTER initial dose |
| < 15 | 600mg | 60mg (SIXTY) every 12 hours | Begin Maintenance dose 48 hours AFTER initial dose |

Hepatic impairment

- No dose modification is required

Elderly

- No dose modification is required

Monitoring

- Monitor temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, O² saturation, behavioural changes, and injection site reaction ^(ref 3)
- Can increase ALT and AST and cause hepatocellular injury (1%)
- Common side effects are rash, ALT/AST increase and diarrhoea ^(ref 1,3)

Further information

- Can give undiluted over 30 minutes via electronically controlled device
- No dose adjustment is required for elderly patients

Storage

Store below 25°C

References

SPC - [Dectova](#) 01/10/2019

1. Zanamivir - BNF, accessed online via [medicines complete](#) 17/01/2024
2. [Guidance on the use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of Influenza](#), HSE, December 2023
3. Injectable medicines guide NHS Medusa Injectable Medicines Guide, downloaded 17/01/2024

Therapeutic classification

Direct Acting Antivirals - Neuraminidase inhibitors - J05AH