

## Who can administer

May be administered by registered competent doctor or nurse/midwife

## Important information

- Unlicensed preparation

## Available preparations

Famotidine 20mg per 2ml 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 20mg with 100ml infusion fluid, and administer over 15 to 30 minutes

### **Slow intravenous injection**

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

## Dose in adults

### **Usual dose**

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

### **Premedication of infusion reactions** <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

- Give 20mg thirty to sixty minutes prior to infusion
- Usually given in conjunction with an H1 antihistamine and glucocorticoid

### **Prophylaxis of acid aspiration (Mendelson's) syndrome** <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

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

### **Prophylaxis of upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage from stress ulceration in seriously ill patients** <sup>(ref 2)</sup>

- Give 20mg 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 <sup>(ref 2)</sup>
- The manufacturers advise that CNS adverse effects have been reported in patients with moderate and severe renal insufficiency
- For patients with CrCl <50 mL/minute: advise increase the dosing interval to 36-48 hours <sup>(ref 2,3)</sup>

## Storage

Storage in a **refrigerator** at 2-8<sup>0</sup>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