

METRONIDAZOLE

DESCRIPTION AND INDICATION FOR USE

Metronidazole is an antimicrobial effective against most anaerobic bacteria and protozoa. Examples of conditions in which metronidazole may be used include intestinal perforation, peritonitis, and necrotising enterocolitis.

DOSE

IV: Loading dose 15mg/kg
Maintenance dose* 7.5mg/kg

Interval:

Age: ≤ 28 days: 12 hourly
> 28 days: 8 hourly

*** Commence maintenance dose:**
CA < 37/40: 24 hours post load
CA ≥ 37/40: 12 hours post load

RECONSTITUTION/DILUTION

Minibag = 500 mg in 100 mL (5 mg/mL)

IV: Withdraw required dose from minibag and administer undiluted

Not for IM or SC use

ROUTE AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

IV: Give slowly over 60 minutes via syringe pump (Maximum rate should not exceed 25 mg/minute)

COMPATIBILITY INFORMATION

Please contact your ward pharmacist for information on drugs or fluids not appearing in the table below. Medications that are not routinely used in the Special Care Nursery have not been included in this table and may be incompatible.

	Compatible	Incompatible
Fluids	5% Dextrose, 0.9% Sodium chloride	10% Dextrose*
Drugs	Cefotaxime, Gentamicin, Hydrocortisone sodium succinate	

* Whilst 10% dextrose is physically compatible with metronidazole, it is not recommended to co-administer these agents due to the high osmolarity of the resulting solution.

SIDE EFFECTS

- Gastrointestinal disturbances, including nausea, dry mouth, candidiasis and abdominal discomfort
- Rash
- Red-brown discolouration of urine
- Leucopenia

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Caution in patient's with hepatic impairment as dosage adjustment may be necessary
- **Infusion contains approximately 13.5 mmol of sodium per 500 mg**

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Phenobarbitone and Phenytoin:

Both agents may reduce the effectiveness of metronidazole by increasing its metabolism. Impaired clearance of phenytoin has also been reported therefore phenytoin levels should be monitored closely during co-therapy with metronidazole.

NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES

- Observations/Monitoring:
 - Observe injection site
 - Observe for side effects
- Flush line with 0.9% sodium chloride before and after giving metronidazole
- Protect from light during storage