

METRONIDAZOLE

ACTIONS and USES

Metronidazole is an antibiotic used for the treatment of anaerobic infections. It is not usually required if a patient is receiving piperacillin/tazobactam or meropenem as they cover anaerobic organisms. It is also used on the advice of the gastroenterologist/surgeon in the management of babies with bacterial overgrowth syndrome.

DOSAGE

IV/oral

Loading dose: 15mg/kg

Maintenance dose for corrected gestational age, see below:

< 26 weeks: 7.5 mg/kg every 24 hours started 24 hours after loading

26–34 weeks: 7.5 mg/kg every 12 hours started 12 hours after loading

>34 weeks or > 28 days old: 7.5mg/kg every 8 hours started 8hours after loading

If used for bacterial overgrowth syndrome it is given one week on and one week off

Maintenance dose should be prescribed when prescribing loading dose. Check date and time of loading dose before administration of first maintenance dose.

Use oral route as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATION

By intravenous infusion over 30 minutes using a syringe driver.

RECONSTITUTION

Metronidazole is available in a ready to use solution 5mg/ml in 100ml plastic bags. The ready to use oral suspension contains 40mg/ml in 100ml bottle.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not infuse or mix with dopamine, glucose 10%, benzylpenicillin, compound sodium lactate injection or sodium bicarbonate.

STORAGE

Do not store punctured bags, discard immediately after use. Unopened bags are stored in the IV infusion cupboard. Protect from light. Discard oral suspension 3months after first opening.

Store suspension at room temperature.

MONITORING

Serious adverse reactions are very rare. Nausea, vomiting, gastro-intestinal disturbance, urticaria and angioedema occur occasionally. Very rarely agranulocytosis, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia,

pancytopenia have been reported. During intensive and prolonged therapy peripheral neuropathy or transient epileptiform seizures have been reported. If therapy is for longer than 10 days, monitor full blood count and liver function.