

Cefotaxime

INDICATION

A broad-spectrum antibiotic with activity against both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria. In the neonatal unit it is mainly used for the treatment of meningitis.

Remember fungal prophylaxis.

DOSE RANGE

AGE	DOSE	FREQUENCY	ROUTE
0 – 6 days	25mg/kg/dose	12 hourly	IV
7 – 21 days	25mg/kg/dose	8 hourly	IV
> 21 days	25mg/kg/dose	8 hourly (increased to 6 hourly in severe infections)	IV

*doses can be doubled to 50mg/kg/dose in severe infections

Dosage interval should be increased in babies with severe renal failure (serum creatinine >200µmol/l)

FORM

Vial containing 500 mg powder for reconstitution

OR Vial containing 1000 mg powder for reconstitution

RECONSTITUTION

500mg vial: Add 4.8mL of water for injection to a 500mg vial to give a 100mg/mL solution

1000mg vial: Add 9.6mL of water for injection to a 1000mg vial to give a 100mg/mL solution

Shake well to reconstitute the dry powder.

METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Standard dose: 25mg/kg/dose – Slow IV bolus over 3 minutes

Double dose: 50mg/kg/dose – Short IV infusion over 30 minutes

COMPATIBILITY

Solution compatibility	Sodium chloride 0.9%, glucose 5%, glucose 10%, Hartmann's solution
Solution incompatibility	No data available
IV drug compatibility	Magnesium sulfate, metronidazole, morphine sulfate, midazolam
IV drug incompatibility	Sodium bicarbonate, aminoglycosides, calcium salts, fluconazole, azithromycin.

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE PLEASE CONTACT PHARMACY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON COMPATIBILITY WITH ANY MEDICINES NOT INCLUDED

SPECIAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitor serum creatinine and urea in patients receiving aminoglycosides and frusemide.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Cautions/ Contraindications/Side effects

Caution in penicillin allergy due to risk of cross-allergy with penicillin and cephalosporins.

Observe for hypersensitivity reactions, phlebitis and vein irritation.

Storage

Store unopened vials in ward IV drug cupboard to protect from light.

Do not store above 25°C.

Use reconstituted intravenous solutions immediately.

APPLICABLE LINKS

[BNFc](#)

[Summary of Product Characteristics \(SPC\)](#)

Prepared by	Rakhee Vasishta	Checked by	Caroline O'Hare
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Administer reconstituted solutions immediately.

All vials, ampoules and infusion bags are for single use only unless otherwise stated.

Dose may vary depending on indication, age, renal function, hepatic function, and concomitant medications.

This monograph should be used in conjunction with the package insert, BNF for Children, and Summary of Product Characteristics. For further advice contact your clinical pharmacist or pharmacy department.