

## **FLECAINIDE**

### **ACTION and USES**

Flecainide is an anti-arrhythmic used for the control of supraventricular arrhythmias not controlled by digoxin. It should only be used under direction of paediatric cardiologist.

### **DOSAGE**

IV: 2mg/kg/dose over 30 minutes. Stop when arrhythmia is controlled.

ORAL: Initially 2mg/kg 8 or 12 hourly. Adjust according to response and measured levels.

### **THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING**

Frequency of Drug Level: Consider checking blood levels after 4 days of treatment if to be continued. Re-check if dose changed or therapeutic concern.

Quantity of blood: 1ml of blood in lithium heparin tube.

Site of Sample: Sample must NOT be taken from site of administration.

Therapeutic Trough Level: 0.2 - 0.7 mg/l. Sample taken prior to dose.

Discuss with Biochemistry prior to sampling.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

As a short infusion over 30 minutes under ECG.

glucose 5% is to be used for flushes.

### **RECONSTITUTION**

Flecainide is available as a solution containing 10mg/ml in a 15ml ampoule. Dilute prior to administration Oral liquid 5mg/ml can be obtained but is not stocked in pharmacy. Injection can be administered orally short term.

#### **Flecainide 1mg/ml**

Mix 1ml flecainide 10mg/ml with 9ml of glucose 5% and shake well to mix.

### **INCOMPATIBILITIES**

Do not flush line with sodium chloride 0.9%. Do not mix or infuse with any other drugs or infusions containing sodium chloride 0.9%.

### **STORAGE**

Opened ampoules should be discarded immediately after opening. Store unopened ampoules in the IV medicine cupboard under 30°C. Store oral liquid at room temperature, NOT in refrigerator.

### **MONITORING**

Monitor ECG regularly. Check liver function. If abnormal, dosage reduction may be required, therefore, monitor blood levels. Monitor renal function, reduce dose by 50% in moderate and severe renal failure. Check electrolytes as toxicity is increased with hypokalaemia. May cause gastrointestinal disturbance. Increased blood levels occur when administered with cimetidine. Phenytoin and phenobarbital may reduce flecainide levels.