

HEPARIN SODIUM

ACTION and USES

Heparin is an anticoagulant used to maintain patency of arterial and central venous lines.

DOSAGE

Continuous infusion of 1unit/ml at 0.5 - 1ml/hr.

Rate is dependent on fluid and clinical status.

ADMINISTRATION

By continuous infusion.

RECONSTITUTION

Make one bag per baby. Pharmacy will provide via the CIVAs service Monday- Friday
Heparin is available as a solution containing 1000units/ml in a 1ml ampoule. Larger ampoules may be used if 1ml size not available. It must be diluted further.

Heparin 1unit/ml

Add 0.5ml of heparin 1000unit/ml to a 500ml bag of sodium chloride 0.45%. Shake well to mix.

Other compatible diluents

Sodium Chloride 0.9% (only use glucose 5% if essential). Stability in glucose 10% is not available but is used in clinical practice by other NNUs.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not mix or infuse with any other drug or diluent.

STORAGE

Heparin ampoules are store in IV medicine cupboard. Prepare one bag per baby. Store reconstituted 500ml bag of heparin 1unit/ml in refrigerator for a maximum of 24 hours. Discard bag prepared on ward as soon as CIVAs bag arrives.
Infusion may run for 24 hours.

MONITORING

Assess line patency and monitor for signs of bleeding. Heparin induced thrombocytopenia is rare. Use with caution where there is evidence of intracranial or GI bleeds (use a lower infusion rate). The unwanted effects of heparin can be reversed by protamine.