

CEFUROXIME

ACTION and USES

A cephalosporin antibiotic which is active against both gram negative and gram positive organisms. It is used mainly as a second line agent on the Unit to treat gram negative septicaemia.

DOSAGE

25mg/kg/dose

Postnatal age

< 7 days	12 hrly
7-21 days	8 hrly
>21 days	8 hrly (can be 6 hrly in severe infection)

- For meningitis and severe infections, use 50mg/kg/dose but halve dose as soon as improvement occurs
- The dosing interval should be increased in renal failure.

ADMINISTRATION

By IV bolus over 3 minutes. Give by short IV infusion over 30 minutes if a dose of 50mg/kg/dose is used.

RECONSTITUTION

Cefuroxime is available as a dry powder containing 250mg per vial and 750mg per vial.

Cefuroxime solution (50mg/ml) (By Bolus)

Add 4.8ml of Water for Injection to a 250mg vial and shake well to mix. If a 750mg vial is used add 14.4ml of Water for Injection.

Cefuroxime solution 12.5mg/ml (By Infusion)

Dilute four fold, for example dilute 1ml of cefuroxime 50mg/ml with 3ml of sodium chloride injection 0.9% (final volume is 4ml).

Other compatible diluent

glucose 5% injection.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not mix or infuse with gentamicin, netilmicin, calcium salts, sodium bicarbonate.

STORAGE

Use reconstituted solutions immediately, do not store. The unopened vials are stored in the IV drug cupboard.

MONITORING

Observe for hypersensitivity reactions, phlebitis and vein irritation. Toxic side effects include various haematological disturbances and renal failure so monitor full blood count, serum creatinine and urea especially in patients with impaired renal function.