hydrOCHLOROTHIAZIDe

Alert	Not to be confused with chlorothiazide.
Indication Chronic lung disease.	
	Heart failure.
	Fluid overload.
	Hypertension.
	In conjunction with diazoxide to counter fluid retention.
Action	Inhibition of sodium reabsorption in distal nephron, leading to loss of water, sodium,
	potassium, magnesium, chloride, phosphate and bicarbonate.
Drug Type	Thiazide diuretic.
Trade Name	Dithiazide
Presentation	Oral suspension manufactured by Pharmacy 2 mg/mL, 5 mg/mL or 10 mg/mL. 25 mg
	tablets,
Dosage / Interval	1 to 2 mg/kg/dose every 12-24 hours (consensus opinion);
	Consider alternate day dosing: 2 mg/kg/dose every 48 hours (consensus opinion).
Maximum daily dose	4 mg/kg/day
Route	Oral
Preparation/Dilution	Oral suspension.
Administration	Administer undiluted with feeds to improve absorption.
Monitoring	Urine output and weight.
Contraindications	Serum sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphorous and glucose.
Contraindications	Hypersensitivity to any component. Thiazide diuretic contains a sulphonamide moiety. While it has long been considered that allergic cross-reactivity may exist between
	sulfonamide antibiotics and other sulfonamide drugs, this is actually unlikely because of the
	structural differences. ¹¹
Precautions	Hypokalaemia.
Frecautions	Hyponatraemia.
	Displaces bilirubin so caution required in jaundiced infants.
Drug Interactions	Hypokalaemia may increase toxic effects of digitalis. Concurrent use of SOTALOL and
	DIURETICS may result in an increased risk of cardiotoxicity (QT prolongation, torsades de
	pointes, cardiac arrest). Concurrent use of FLECAINIDE and HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE may
	result in increased risk of electrolyte imbalance and subsequent cardiotoxicity.
Adverse Reactions	Hypokalaemia; hyponatraemia; hyperglycaemia; hyperuricaemia; hypercalcaemia.
	Cumulative effects of the drug may develop in patients with impaired renal function. If
	increasing azotaemia and oliguria occur during treatment of severe progressive renal
	disease, the diuretic should be discontinued.
Compatibility	N/A
Incompatibility	N/A
Stability	N/A
Storage	Oral suspension: Store between 2 and 8°C.
Special Comments	Improves respiratory function in preterm infants with or developing chronic lung disease.
	Used in conjunction with diazoxide to counter diazoxide-induced sodium and fluid
	retention.
	Increases urine output, potassium and phosphorus excretion. Urinary calcium excretion may
	be decreased.1
	Usually used in combination with spironolactone to reduce potassium loss.
	Onset of the diuretic action following oral administration occurs in 2 hours and the peak
	action in about 4 hours. Diuretic activity lasts about 6 to 12 hours.
	Hydrochlorothiazide is not metabolised but is eliminated rapidly by the kidney. The mean
	plasma half-life is prolonged with renal impairment. ³

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Evidence summary	Efficacy:
	In preterm infants > 3 weeks of age with chronic lung disease: Acute and chronic
	administration of distal diuretics improve pulmonary mechanics. ⁴ A single study showed
	thiazide and spironolactone decreased the risk of death in infants who did not have access
	to corticosteroids, bronchodilators or aminophylline. ⁵ (LOE I, GOR C) Trials used
	hydrochlorothiazide doses ranging from 3 to 4 mg/kg/day divided 12 hourly in combination
	with spironolactone.
	Concomitant therapy with diazoxide: Diazoxide can cause sodium and fluid retention and
	concomitant use of thiazide diuretics is recommended to counter this effect. ⁶⁻⁹ The fluid
	retention from diazoxide is mostly observed in the neonatal period and may cause cardiac
	failure; hence the concurrent use of a thiazide diuretic in neonates. However, routine use of
	a thiazide diuretic is not necessary in older children when there is no evidence of fluid
	retention. ⁷
	Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics: Oral bioavailability in adults is approximately 60–70% and the peak concentrations in
	plasma occur within 1.5 to 4 hours following an oral dose. ³ (LOE IV)
	The mean plasma half-life of hydrochlorothiazide in adults has been reported to be from 3.2
	to 13.1 hours 2 (LOE IV GOR C) and is prolonged with renal impairment. 3 (LOE IV GOR C) The
	pharmacokinetics have not been reported in infants.
	Safety:
	Preterm infants receiving hydrochlorothiazide in combination with spironolactone may have
	an increased need for sodium and potassium supplementation. ⁵ (LOE II GOR B) Whether
	alternative day dosing of hydrochlorothiazide is associated with reduced need for sodium
	and potassium supplementation, as with alternate day furosemide dosing, ¹⁰ has not been
	tested in clinical trials. Unlike furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide has not been associated with
	hearing loss or nephrocalcinosis in newborn infants. ⁴ (LOE II GOR B)
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Newborn use only

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Original version Date: 18/07/2016	Author: NMF Consensus Group
Current Version number: 1	Current Version Date: 18/07/2016
Risk Rating: Medium	Due for Review: 18/07/2019
Approval by: As per Local policy	Approval Date:

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