

Phenylephrine

Newborn Use Only

2018

Alert	Watch for apnoeas and abdominal distension following administration. Lower concentration solutions and regimens minimising number of additional drops are recommended.
Indication	Mydriatic (dilates the pupil) for ophthalmic examinations and therapeutic procedures.
Action	Selective alpha-1-adrenoceptor agonist. Contracts dilator muscle of pupil and constricts arterioles in conjunctiva.
Drug Type	Sympathomimetic.
Trade Name	Minims® Phenylephrine hydrochloride.
Presentation	Phenylephrine hydrochloride 2.5 % (25 mg/mL) single-use sterile eye drop, approximately 0.5 mL.
Dosage/Interval	Use in conjunction with cyclopentolate 0.5% and/or tropicamide 0.5% eye drops. REGIMEN 1: Phenylephrine 2.5% + cyclopentolate 0.5% + tropicamide 0.5% eye drops [1-4]. Instil one drop of each agent (5 minutes apart) into each eye 60 minutes prior to examination. Repeat if pupillary dilatation inadequate. Perform examination 60 to 120 minutes after instillation. REGIMEN 2: Phenylephrine 2.5% + cyclopentolate 0.5% eye drops [5]. Instil one drop of each agent (5 minutes apart) into each eye 60 minutes prior to examination. Repeat if pupillary dilatation inadequate. Perform examination 60 to 120 minutes after instillation. Dark irides may require additional drops.
Maximum daily dose	REGIMEN 1: 3 drops of each eye drop. REGIMEN 2: 4 drops of each eye drop.
Route	Topical instillation into the eyes from the container or use a microdrop (5–7 microL) cannula.
Preparation/Dilution	
Administration	Apply pressure to the lacrimal sac during and for 60 seconds after instillation of eye drop to minimise systemic absorption. Wipe away excess medication. Consider withholding feeds for four hours from administration of the last drops to reduce incidence of feed intolerance.
Monitoring	Blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation in infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia.
Contraindications	Necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) at the time of eye examination. Concurrent use with beta-adrenoceptor antagonists (beta-blockers).
Precautions	Infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Lower concentration solutions and regimens minimising number of additional drops are recommended to minimise toxicity.
Drug Interactions	Atropine, beta-adrenoceptor antagonists (beta-blockers).
Adverse Reactions	Decreased pulmonary compliance, tidal volume and peak air flow in babies with bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Increased blood pressure. Skin pallor around eyes.
Compatibility	Cyclopentolate, tropicamide, amethocaine
Incompatibility	
Stability	Discard immediately after use.
Storage	Store in refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.

Special Comments	Cross check correct strength of Minims® Phenylephrine hydrochloride is used. Do NOT use 10 % in neonates.
Evidence summary	Refer to full version.
References	Refer to full version.

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