

# Calcium chloride 10%

## Newborn Use only

2021

<b>Alert</b>	<p>Multiple forms of calcium exist with varying amounts of elemental calcium expressed in varying units. Therefore careful attention is required in prescription and administration of calcium to avoid over- or under-dosing.</p> <p><b>Conversion factor for elemental Ca: 1 mg = 0.02 mmol = 0.05 mEq.</b></p> <p><b>Prescribe calcium in mmol/kg/dose (not in mL/kg/dose)</b></p> <p>Calcium can slow the heart rate and precipitate arrhythmias. In cardiac arrest, calcium may be given by rapid intravenous injection. In the presence of a spontaneous circulation give it slowly.</p> <p>Do not give calcium solutions and sodium bicarbonate simultaneously by the same route to avoid precipitation.</p> <p>Calcium chloride 10% may be preferred over calcium gluconate 10% for rapid IV administration.</p>
<b>Indication</b>	<p>Asymptomatic or symptomatic hypocalcaemia.</p> <p>Hyperkalaemia.</p> <p>Exchange transfusion.</p> <p>Magnesium toxicity.</p> <p>Calcium channel blocker overdose.</p> <p>Supplementation in parenteral nutrition (beyond the scope of this guideline).</p>
<b>Action</b>	<p>Calcium is essential for the functional integrity of the nervous, muscular, skeletal and cardiac systems and for clotting function. It antagonises the cardiotoxic effects (arrhythmias) of hyperkalaemia, hypermagnesaemia and calcium channel blockers.</p>
<b>Drug Type</b>	Mineral.
<b>Trade Name</b>	Calcium Chloride Injection (Phebra) 10%
<b>Presentation</b>	Calcium chloride 10% 10 mL vial (1 mL contains 100 mg calcium chloride equivalent to 0.68 mmol of elemental calcium).
<b>Dosage</b>	<p><b>Maintenance IV calcium therapy – IV intermittent</b></p> <p>Elemental Calcium – 0.15 mmol/kg/dose 4-6 hourly (maximum daily dose 3 mmol/kg/day). Titrate to serum calcium levels</p> <p><b>Impending cardiac arrest</b> (secondary to hypocalcaemia, hyperkalaemia, magnesium toxicity, calcium channel blocker overdose)</p> <p>IV or IO: Elemental Calcium - 0.15 mmol/kg (= 0.2mL/kg of <b>UNDILUTED</b> 10% calcium chloride). Repeat as necessary.</p> <p><b>Exchange transfusion:</b> Administer if severe hypocalcaemia:</p> <p>IV: Elemental calcium 0.23 mmol/kg (=0.3mL/kg of <b>UNDILUTED</b> 10% calcium chloride) Repeat as necessary.</p>
<b>Maximum Dose</b>	IV – 3 mmol/kg/day <sup>21</sup>
<b>Route</b>	<p>IV (via a central line where possible)</p> <p>IO</p> <p>Oral (see separate guideline 'Calcium- ORAL').</p>
<b>Preparation</b>	<p><b>Calcium Chloride – IV intermittent</b></p> <p>Draw up 1.5 mL (1.02 mmol of elemental calcium) and add 8.5 mL sodium chloride 0.9%, glucose 5% or glucose 10% to make a final volume of 10 mL with a concentration of 0.1 mmol/mL. Infuse dose over 10–60 minutes via a central line (if possible).</p> <p><b>Calcium Chloride – cardiac arrest(secondary to hyperkalaemia, hypocalcaemia, hypermagnesaemia or calcium channel blocker)</b></p> <p>Infuse undiluted over 5 – 10 minutes via a central line (if possible).</p>
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b>Calcium chloride – IV intermittent</b></p> <p>In cardiac arrest, calcium may be given by rapid intravenous injection.</p> <p>In the presence of a spontaneous circulation give it slowly. Infuse dose over 10–60 minutes (5-10 minutes in cardiac arrest) via a central line (if possible and compatibilities permit). If NO central access is available, consult the Neonatologist on service before administering via peripheral route. If administering peripherally give via a large vein.</p> <p>In poorly perfused patients, consider diluting the infusion further (two-fold) and infuse over at least TWO hours.</p> <p><b>MUST NOT</b> be injected intra-arterially, intramuscularly or subcutaneously.</p>

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<b>Monitoring</b>	Continuous ECG monitoring to monitor heart rate and rhythm (stop infusion if HR < 100 bpm). Measurement of ionised calcium preferred over total or corrected calcium concentration. Blood gas machines measure ionised calcium directly and are more accurate than the main pathology laboratory which calculates the ionised calcium from a complex formula. Observe IV tubing for precipitates. Observe IV insertion site for extravasation. Correct hypomagnesaemia if present.				
<b>Contraindications</b>	Caution in patients with renal or cardiac impairment.				
<b>Precautions</b>	Do not give calcium solutions and sodium bicarbonate simultaneously by the same route to avoid precipitation. Ensure IV calcium is administered at a different time to phosphates, carbonates, sulfates or tartrates (precipitates can occur).				
<b>Drug Interactions</b>	Ceftriaxone (may cause insoluble precipitates and can be fatal), digoxin (serious risk of arrhythmia and cardiovascular collapse), thiazide diuretics (increased risk of hypercalcaemia), ketoconazole (decreased ketoconazole effect).				
<b>Adverse Reactions</b>	Rapid administration is associated with bradycardia or asystole. Rash, pain, burning at injection site, cutaneous necrosis with extravasation (give via central line unless otherwise instructed by a neonatologist) Nephrolithiasis with long term use. Gastric irritation, diarrhoea and NEC have occurred during oral therapy with hyperosmolar preparations (must be diluted if used orally. See separate guideline Calcium – ORAL)				
<b>Compatibility</b>	Fluids: Glucose 5%, sodium chloride 0.9%  Y-site: Aciclovir, adrenaline (epinephrine) hydrochloride, amikacin, aminophylline, amiodarone, atropine, azithromycin, benzylpenicillin (penicillin G), calcium gluconate, cefotaxime, ceftazoline, fosamil, clindamycin, ciclosporin, dexmedetomidine, digoxin, dobutamine, dopamine, erythromycin, lactobionate, esmolol, famotidine, fentanyl citrate, fluconazole, furosemide, ganciclovir, gentamicin, heparin, insulin (regular), linezolid, lorazepam, metronidazole, midazolam, morphine sulfate, noradrenaline (norepinephrine), phenobarbital sodium, piperacillin-tazobactam, potassium acetate, potassium chloride, rocuronium, sodium nitroprusside, suxamethonium, vancomycin, vecuronium bromide, verapamil.				
<b>Incompatibility</b>	Fluids: Lipid emulsion. For TPN solutions: No information; seek advice from TPN manufacturer.  Y-site: amphotericin B conventional colloidal, amphotericin B lipid complex, amphotericin B liposome, ampicillin, azathioprine, , cefazolin, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, dexamethasone, diazepam, diazoxide, folic acid, foscarnet, haloperidol lactate, hydralazine, hydrocortisone sodium succinate, indomethacin, ketorolac, magnesium sulfate, meropenem-vaborbactam, methylprednisolone sodium succinate, pantoprazole, phenytoin sodium, phosphate salts, propofol, sodium bicarbonate, thiopentone.  <b>Do not mix with any medication that contains phosphates, carbonates, sulfates or tartrates.</b>				
<b>Stability</b>	IV diluted solution: Do not use if discoloured, cloudy, turbid or if a precipitate is present. Discard remaining solution after use.				
<b>Storage</b>	Ampoule: Store below 25°C.				
<b>Special Comments</b>	Hypocalcaemia defined as a serum total calcium concentration below 1.875 mmol/L [7.5 mg/dL] or ionized calcium less than 1.2 mmol/L.[1]  Blood gas machines measure ionised calcium directly and are more accurate than the main pathology laboratory which calculates the ionised calcium from a complex formula. Corrected calcium is calculated (when albumin < 40 or > 45) by the formula: $\text{Measured Ca (mmol/L)} + (40 - \text{albumin (g/L)}) \times 0.025$  Consider use of hyaluronidase for treatment of extravasation injuries <b>Calcium salt equivalents of elemental calcium</b> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Salt</th><th>Elemental Ca</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Calcium chloride 10% 1 mL</td><td>1.36 mEq 27.3 mg 0.68 mmol</td></tr></tbody></table>	Salt	Elemental Ca	Calcium chloride 10% 1 mL	1.36 mEq 27.3 mg 0.68 mmol
Salt	Elemental Ca				
Calcium chloride 10% 1 mL	1.36 mEq 27.3 mg 0.68 mmol				

	Calcium gluconate 10% 1 mL	0.46 mEq	9.3 mg	0.22 mmol <sup>18</sup>
	<b>Salt 1g</b>			
	Calcium Acetate	12.6 mEq	253 mg	6.30 mmol
	Calcium Carbonate	19.9 mEq	400 mg	9.96 mmol
	Calcium Citrate	10.5 mEq	211 mg	5.26 mmol
	Calcium Chloride	13.6 mEq	273 mg	6.80 mmol
	Calcium Glubionate	3.29 mEq	66 mg	1.64 mmol
	Calcium Gluceptate	4.08 mEq	82 mg	2.04 mmol
	Calcium Gluconate	4.65 mEq	93 mg	2.32 mmol
<b>Evidence summary</b>	<p><b>Hypocalcaemia:</b> Hypocalcaemia may be defined as a serum total calcium concentration &lt;1.875 mmol/L (7.5 mg/dL) or ionized calcium &lt; 1.2 mmol/L.[1] Calcium concentrations decrease transiently after birth.[2-4] Early neonatal hypocalcaemia occurs within the first 3 days of life and is common in premature infants with 26% to 50% having levels &lt; 1.75 mmol/L (7 mg/dL).[2-4] Most infants will be asymptomatic, with hypocalcaemia detected only on routine chemistries. They may present with symptoms of neuromuscular irritability including tremulousness, tetany, exaggerated startle response, seizures and laryngospasm, and nonspecific symptoms such as apnea.[1, 3]</p> <p><b>Efficacy:</b> <b>Treatment of hypocalcaemia:</b> In normocalcaemic infants, a randomised trial of calcium chloride 10% (2.5 mg/kg) vs calcium gluconate 10% (7.5 mg/kg) reported an equal effect on calcium concentrations.[5] However, in 49 critically ill, hypocalcaemic infants (age 1 day to 17 years), calcium chloride 0.136 mEq/kg per dose resulted in a greater increase in ionised calcium and blood pressure than calcium gluconate 0.136 mEq/kg per dose. The group receiving calcium chloride had an increase in MAP of nearly 6 mm Hg (p &lt;0.05). No change in blood pressure was seen in the group receiving calcium gluconate.[6] In 104 newborns with late symptomatic hypocalcaemia after artificial feeding with a full-cream evaporated milk were randomly allocated to calcium gluconate 10% 10 ml orally vs phenobarbitone 75 mg 6-hourly orally for 48 hours vs magnesium sulphate 50% 0.2 mL/kg intramuscularly on two occasions 12 hourly. The plasma calcium levels rose in all groups, but infants treated with magnesium sulphate had higher plasma-calcium concentrations after 48 hours' treatment and fewer convulsions during and after the treatment period.[7] <b>Prevention of hypocalcaemia:</b> In preterm and sick newborn infants, the addition of calcium gluconate 10% at 4 ml/kg/day [0.93 mmol/day calcium] to maintenance fluids for 120 hours resulted in a reduction in hypocalcaemia incidence (15% vs 48% ionised Ca &lt;0.7 mmol/l) but an increased incidence of extravasation with tissue damage (35% vs 10%). The benefit of intravenous calcium was short lived and associated with a significant risk of local tissue necrosis.[8] <b>Recommendation:</b> Routine addition of calcium to maintenance fluids cannot be recommended in high risk babies.[8](LOE II GOR C) Treatment of newborns with acute or symptomatic hypocalcaemia is accomplished best by the intravenous infusion of calcium salts - 10% calcium gluconate (9.3 mg/mL of elemental calcium) is used most commonly. In asymptomatic newborns, treatment is indicated when the total serum calcium concentration &lt; 1.5 mmol/L (6 mg/dL) in the preterm infant and less than &lt;1.75 mmol/L (7 mg/dL) in the term infant. Calcium supplementation can be given either by the intravenous or oral route, depending on the clinical status of the infant. [1] [Expert opinion].</p> <p><b>Treatment in cardiac arrest:</b> Calcium is not commended for use in neonatal resuscitation by ILCOR or ANZCOR.[9, 10] Evidence from three LOE 2 studies in children and five LOE 5 adult studies failed to document an improvement in survival to hospital admission, hospital discharge, or favourable neurological outcome when calcium was administered during cardiopulmonary arrest in the absence of documented hypocalcaemia, calcium channel blocker overdose, hypermagnesaemia or hyperkalaemia. [11, 12] [Expert Consensus Opinion] <b>ANZCOR Paediatric recommendation:</b> Calcium may be used as an inotropic or vasopressor but it has no place in the management of an arrhythmia unless it is caused by hyperkalaemia, hypocalcaemia,</p>			

	<p>hypermagnesaemia or calcium channel blocker. It should not be given routinely at a cardiac arrest and is associated with worse outcome. [11] [Expert Consensus Opinion]</p> <p><b>Arrhythmia caused by hyperkalaemia, hypocalcaemia or hypermagnesaemia, or hypotension caused by calcium channel blocker:</b> In a case series, extremely premature infants with arrhythmia secondary to hyperkalaemia were all initially successfully treated with an intravenous bolus of calcium (dose not reported). [13, 14]</p> <p><b>ANZCOR Paediatric guideline:</b> Calcium (0.15 mmol/kg) is the antidote to hypotension caused by a calcium channel blocker.[9] The intravenous or intraosseous dose is 0.2mL/kg of 10% calcium chloride or 0.7mL/kg of 10% calcium gluconate. [11] [Expert Consensus Opinion]</p> <p><b>Exchange transfusion:</b> Exchange transfusion with blood stored in citrate causes a fall in ionised calcium concentrations.[15, 16] Current supplies of Australian Red Cross Blood Service whole blood contain citrate, whereas packed red cells contain saline, adenine, glucose and mannitol. A quasi-random trial of 30 infants undergoing exchange transfusion for hyperbilirubinaemia with CPD stored whole blood with intervention group receiving 1 mL 10% calcium gluconate for every 100 mL blood reported the intervention group had a significant increase in total and ionised calcium whereas control group had a fall in total and ionised calcium. However, the difference was not clinically important.[17] Conclusion: A systematic review concluded there is no good-quality evidence to support or reject continual use of calcium during exchange transfusion with citrated blood.[18]</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> The addition of calcium gluconate 10% at 4 ml/kg/day [0.93 mmol/day calcium] to intravenous maintenance fluids increased incidence of extravasation with tissue damage (35% vs 10%).[8] Calcium can slow the heart rate and precipitate arrhythmias. In cardiac arrest, calcium may be given by rapid intravenous injection. In the presence of a spontaneous circulation give it slowly. Do not give calcium solutions and sodium bicarbonate simultaneously by the same route to avoid precipitation.[19]</p>
<b>References</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cote' CJ, Drop LJ, Daniels AL, Hoaglin DC. Calcium chloride versus calcium gluconate: comparison of ionization and cardiovascular effects in children and dogs. <i>Anesthesiology</i> 1987;66(4):465-70.</li> <li>2. MHRA Public Assessment Report. Calcium gluconate injection 10% in 10 ml glass containers: risk of aluminium exposure. September 2010</li> <li>3. Maisels MJ, Li TK, Piechocki JT, Werthman MW: The effect of exchange transfusion on serum ionized calcium. <i>Pediatrics</i> 1974; 53:683–686.</li> <li>4. Wieland P, Duc G, Binswanger U, Fischer JA. Parathyroid hormone response in newborn infants during exchange transfusion with blood supplemented with citrate and phosphate: effect of iv calcium. <i>Pediatr Res</i> 1979;13(9):963-8. )</li> <li>5. Greer FR. Calcium and Phosphorus and the Preterm Infant. <i>NeoReviews</i> 2016;17(4): e195-e202; DOI: 10.1542/neo.17-4-e195</li> <li>6. Nelson N, Finnstrom O. Blood exchange transfusions in newborns, the effect on serum ionized calcium. <i>Early Human Development</i> 1988;18(2-3):157-64.</li> <li>7. Scott SM, Ladenson JH, Aguanna JJ, Walgate J, Hillman LS. Effect of calcium therapy in the sick premature infant with early neonatal hypocalcemia. <i>J Pediatr</i> 1984;104(5):747-51.</li> <li>8. Porcelli PJ Jr, Oh W. Effects of single dose calcium gluconate infusion in hypocalcemic preterm infants. <i>Am J Perinatol</i> 1995;12(1):18-21.</li> <li>9. Brown DR, Salsburey DJ. Short-term biochemical effects of parenteral calcium treatment of early-onset neonatal hypocalcemia. <i>J Pediatr</i> 1982;100(5):777-81.</li> <li>10. Koletzko B, Goulet O, Hunt J, Krohn K, Shamir R, Parenteral Nutrition Guidelines Working Group, European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN), European Society of Paediatric Research (ESPR). 1. Guidelines on Paediatric Parenteral Nutrition of the European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) and the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN), Supported by the European Society of Paediatric Research (ESPR). <i>J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr</i> 2005;41 Suppl 2:S1-87..</li> <li>11. Agostoni C, Buonocore G, Carnielli VP, De Curtis M, Darmaun D, Decsi T, Domellof M, Embleton ND, Fusch C, Genzel-Boroviczeny O, Goulet O, Kalhan SC, Kolacek S, Koletzko B, Lapillonne A, Mihatsch W, Moreno L, Neu J, Poindexter B, Puntis J, Putet G, Rigo J, Riskin A, Salle B, Sauer P, Shamir R, Szajewska H, Thureen P, Turck D, van Goudoever JB, Ziegler EE, ESPGHAN Committee on Nutrition. Enteral nutrient supply for preterm infants: commentary from the European Society of Paediatric</li> </ol>

	<p>Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Committee on Nutrition. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2010;50(1):85-91.</p> <p>12. Christmann V, de Grauw AM, Visser R, Matthijsse RP, van Goudoever JB, van Heijst AF. Early postnatal calcium and phosphorus metabolism in preterm infants. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 2014;58(4):398-403.</p> <p>13.</p> <p>16. Calcium chloride – Micromedex. Accessed online 24/09/2021.</p> <p>17. Calcium gluconate – Micromedex. Accessed online 24/09/2021.</p> <p>18. Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook, 6th Edition, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia 2014. Accessed on 24/09/2021.</p> <p>19. Calcium equivalents. <a href="http://www-users.med.cornell.edu/~spon/picu/calc/cacalc.htm">http://www-users.med.cornell.edu/~spon/picu/calc/cacalc.htm</a>. Accessed on 7 06 2016</p> <p>20. Smits-Wintjens VEJ, Rath MEA, van Zwet EW, Oepkes D, Brand A, Walther FJ, Lopriore E. Neonatal morbidity after exchange transfusion for red cell alloimmune hemolytic disease. Neonatology 2013;103:141–147.</p> <p>21. Koletzko B, Goulet O, Hunt J, Krohn K, Shamir R. 1. Guidelines on Paediatric Parenteral Nutrition of the European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) and the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN), Supported by the European Society of Paediatric Research (ESPR). Journal of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. 2005;41 Suppl 2:S1-87.</p>
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