METHYLENE BLUE 1%

DESCRIPTION
It reduces methaemoglobin to haemoglobin in red blood cells.

USE
Idiopathic or drug induced methaemoglobinemia.

PHARMACOLOGY
Mainly excreted in urine, therefore expect blue colour of urine and faeces.

PRESENTATION
50mg/5ml

DOSE
1mg/kg/dose

ROUTE
IV, oral

RECONSTITUTION
Dilute the required dose (1mg/kg) with 3-5ml of 0.9% sodium chloride.

ADMINISTRATION
IV administration over 15 minutes is preferable for rapid action. Doses can be repeated if necessary.

ADVERSE EFFECTS
1. G6PD DEFICIENCY Methylene blue may not be effective as these patients have diminished capacity to reduce methylene blue to leucomethylene blue. Large doses of methylene blue in this condition can itself lead to hemolytic anemia.
2. SEVERE RENAL FAILURE Long term administration may lead to marked anemia due to accelerated destruction of red blood cells.

SIDE EFFECT
1. Nausea, vomiting, abdominal and chest pain
2. Headache, dizziness, mental confusion, profuse sweating
3. Hypertension
3. Very high doses can lead to methaemoglobinemia and hemolysis

IV INCOMPATIBILITY No data available.

REFERENCE
1. MIMS Annual 1999, 2-226