NEWBORN USE ONLY
GIVEN ON DOCTORS ORDER ONLY

VITAMIN E

DESCRIPTION A potent free radical scavenger. An antioxidant to prevent destruction of unsaturated fatty acids and cell membranes by uncontrolled free radicals.

USSE

1. Prophylaxis against vitamin E deficiency
2. At higher dose to reduce oxidant injury such as ROP, BPD, IVH remain controversial.

PRESENTATION 156U/ml oral preparation

DOSE 5-25U/day commenced at 4 weeks of age.

ADMINISTRATION Oral with feeds.

MONITORING Assess feeding tolerance. Signs of vitamin E deficiency include hemolytic anemia and thrombocytosis.

REFERENCE

Raju et al. Vitamin E prophylaxis to reduce retinopathy of prematurity: A reappraisal of published trials. J Pediatr 1997;131:844-850.

REVISED 2 August 2011