



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Methylnaltrexone

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Medication Class

Laxative

Presentation

Injection: 12mg/0.6mL vial

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C.

Dose

Opioid induced constipation in palliative care when other regular laxatives inadequate

Subcutaneous injection as single dose:

38 – 62kg: 8mg (0.4mL).

62 – 114kg: 12mg (0.6mL).

Less than 38 or more than 114kg: 0.15mg/kg (or 0.0075mL/kg).

Seek palliative care specialist advice before repeating the injection 24 hours later.

Administration

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#).

Monitoring

Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain or cramping.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative.

2nd Trimester: Consider alternative.

3rd Trimester: Consider alternative.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Consider alternative.

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Comments

Rapid onset of bowel movement may occur within 30 minutes, with 70% of patients responding within 24 hours. Seek palliative care specialist advice before repeating the injection 24 hours later.

Continuation of (and review of dose) of regular laxatives is mandatory when methylnaltrexone has been used.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Medication Administration](#)

[Palliative Care](#)

References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Methylnaltrexone. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2023 [cited 2023 Feb 07]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Methylnaltrexone. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2022 [cited 2023 Feb 07]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Methylnaltrexone. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2022 [cited 2023 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

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