

Iloprost: Clinical Guideline

Iloprost is a synthetic analogue of prostacyclin, which is a normal product of vascular endothelial cells. Its main clinical use is in patients with critical limb ischaemia that is not treatable by angioplasty or surgery, patients with Buerger's disease and those with severe Raynaud's disease.

Please note this is an unlicensed preparation and the responsibility for its use rests with the prescribing doctor. Iloprost can only be ordered by a consultant, on a 'named patient' basis, from the pharmaceutical company Bayer Schering Pharma via the hospital pharmacy. To order ask the ward pharmacist for a requisition form which needs to be completed for each patient.

Contraindications to use:

- Severe cardiac failure
- History of gastrointestinal bleeding
- Recent stroke
- Recent major trauma (including head injury)
- Inherited bleeding tendency
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Prior to commencing treatment:

- Measure patient's pulse and blood pressure
- Weight the patient

Iloprost infusion:

- Each 0.5 ml ampoule contains 50 micrograms of Iloprost
- Dilute 0.5 ml of Iloprost injection in 250ml of 0.9% sodium chloride (or 5% glucose if this is unavailable) and mix well. This gives a concentration of 0.2 micrograms/ml
- Start the infusion at 10 ml/hour
- Increase rate by 10 ml/hour at 30 minute intervals to a maximum rate of 40 ml/hour (If the patient's weight is >75kg then a maximum infusion rate of 50 ml/hour may be used)
- If unacceptable side effects occur at any stage reduce the rate by 10 ml/hour
- Run the infusion for a total of **6 HOURS** then **STOP**

Repeat daily 6 hour infusions for a total of 5-7 days (as directed by consultant)

A fresh infusion must be prepared each day. The infusion can be started at the maximum tolerated dose from day 2 (as directed by the consultant)

Observations:

- Monitor pulse and blood pressure every 30 minutes during the infusion and for 2 hours after
- Document the infusion rate on the blood pressure chart together with the observations

Side effects:

- Hypotension
- Facial flushing, sweating
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea

If side effects develop, reduce infusion rate. If side effects are intolerable stop infusion for 1 hour then restart at a lower infusion rate. Any queries ask the prescribing consultant or ward pharmacist.

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References:

Technical Information Sheet for Iloprost and supporting information, Bayer Schering Pharma supplied June 2012