NEVIRAPINE

Indication	• Prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in newborn[1] • High risk newborn whose mother[2] o Has detectable viral loads at delivery o Is not on therapy, presents late/in labour or without testing available o Has HIV infection detected post-partum

ORAL

Presentation

- Oral solution 50 mg/5 mL

Dosage (mother had no nevirapine or less than 3 days of nevirapine)

- Dose according to gestation and weight[2]

Gestational age (weeks) and weight	Dose	Timing of dose
34+6 or less **AND** less than 2 kg	8 mg x 3 doses in first week of life	Dose 1: within 48 hours of birth Dose 2: 48 hours after dose 1 Dose 3: 96 hours after dose 2
34+6 or less **AND** 2 kg or more	12 mg x 3 doses in first week of life	
35+0 or more	2 mg/kg daily for 1 week THEN 4 mg/kg daily for 1 week	Total duration 2 weeks

Dosage (mother had 3 or more days of nevirapine)

- Dose according to gestation and weight[2]

Gestational age (weeks) and weight	Dose	Timing of dose
34+6 or less **AND** less than 2 kg	8 mg x 3 doses in first week of life	Dose 1: within 48 hours of birth Dose 2: 48 hours after dose 1 Dose 3: 96 hours after dose 2
34+6 or less **AND** 2 kg or more	12 mg x 3 doses in first week of life	
35+0 or more	4 mg/kg daily for 2 weeks	Total duration 2 weeks

Preparation

- Agitate solution gently before administration

Administration

- Draw up prescribed dose
- Oral/OGT/NGT without regard to feeds[3]

Special considerations	• Used in combination with other ART (not in isolation)[4] • Commence 3 drug treatment as soon as possible after birth o If HIV diagnosed late, commence no later than 72 hours after birth • Discontinue if: o Abnormalities in LFT accompanied by hypersensitivity reaction o Significant liver function abnormalities reoccur • Suspend if: o Severe abnormalities in LFT but no hypersensitivity reaction (monitor closely)
Monitoring	• LFT, renal function
Compatibility	• Nil known
Incompatibility	• Nil known
Interactions	• Carbamazepine, fluconazole, midazolam, phenobarbital (phenobarbitone), phenytoin, sildenafil, zidovudine[1]
Stability	• Store below 30 °C • Once opened, use within 6 months[4]

Side effects	• Hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. rash, fever, arthralgia, myalgia, lymphadenopathy) • Blood pathology: eosinophilia, granulocytopenia • Digestive: potentially life-threatening hepatotoxicity including fatal fulminant hepatitis reported usually in first 6 weeks • Integumentary: rash—usually in first 6 weeks (most common side-effect)
Actions	• Antiretroviral agent • Active *in vitro* against some HIV-1 groups but has no activity against HIV-2[4]
Abbreviations	ART: antiretroviral treatment; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; LFT liver function test, OGT: oral gastric tube, NGT: nasogastric tube
Keywords	nevirapine, viramune, HIV, human immunodeficiency virus, anti-retroviral, ART

The Queensland Clinical Guideline *Neonatal Medicines* is integral to and should be read in conjunction with this monograph. Refer to the disclaimer. Destroy all printed copies of this monograph after use.

References

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Document history

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