VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL
CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
INVESTIGATIONAL DRUG DATA SHEET

DRUG NAME
artesunate

ALTERNATE NAME

MANUFACTURER
SRI International

STRENGTH
110mg vial

DOSAGE FORM
powder for reconstitution

INDICATIONS
- Treatment of choice for severe and complicated malaria and infections due to chloroquine-resistant or multi-drug resistant strains of malaria

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION
- Administer 2.4mg/kg IV push into line over 1 to 2 minutes at 0, 12, 24 and 48 hours (Total dose 9.6mg/kg)
- Obese patients should be dosed based on actual body weight (no maximum dose)
- First dose should be administered STAT
- IM route may be considered when IV access is not possible

- A second anti-malarial agent that is given orally should be started 4 hours after the last IV dose.
- If the patient cannot tolerate oral medication, artesunate may be given IV daily for up to 7 days total
- Consult ID specialist for choice of anti-malarial agent

PREPARATION:
- Reconstitute vial with 11mL of provided diluent. Gently swirl for 5 to 6 minutes for a resultant concentration of 10 mg/mL
- Reconstituted solution is stable for 1 hour.
- May mix with 5mL of dextrose 5% in water or sodium chloride 0.9% prior to injection if desired.

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS*
- Anorexia, dizziness, lightheadedness, headache, taste alteration, nausea, diarrhea, reversible decrease in reticulocyte count, increased liver enzymes, bradycardia, heart block and rare allergic reactions

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS
- Store refrigerated
- Diluent may form crystals at lower temperatures but will dissolve if gently warmed
- Observe patient for 30 minutes following administration for signs of allergic reactions.
- No dose adjustment for renal or liver dysfunction
- In pregnancy, IV quinine is preferred in first trimester; IV artesunate is preferred in second and third trimester.
- Artesunate is not available on the Canadian Market. Complete Form A & B and return to The Canadian Malaria Network as directed.

The use of artesunate is experimental. Knowledge of its side effects is incomplete and may involve risks that are unknown and currently unforeseen.
***REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**
JUN2009