

**VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL
CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMME DRUG DATA SHEET**

DRUG NAME artesunate	ALTERNATE NAME Artesun [®] , artesunic acid
MANUFACTURER Guilin Pharmaceuticals	
STRENGTH 120 mg kit	DOSAGE FORM injection

INDICATIONS

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

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Administer 2.4 mg/kg IV push into IV line over 1 to 2 minutes at 0, 12, 24 and 48 hours (Total dose 9.6 mg/kg)
- Obese patients should be dosed based on actual body weight (no maximum dose)
- First dose should be administered STAT
- Switch to oral therapy after a minimum of 24 hours (3 doses) if tolerated
- IM route may be considered when IV access is not possible; preferred site is anterior thigh
- A second anti-malarial agent given orally should be started 4 hours after the last IV dose
- If 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:

- Kits are stored at room temperature. Protect from light.
- Each 120 mg kit contains the following:
 - 1 vial of 120 mg artesunate
 - 1 amp of 100 mg/2 mL sodium bicarbonate (50 mg/mL)
 - 1 amp of NS 10 mL
- Reconstitute each artesunate vial with 2 mL of sodium bicarbonate (provided). Shake vials for several minutes (not too vigorously) to ensure contents are completely dissolved and the solution is clear.
- For IV use: To each reconstituted artesunate vial add 10 mL of NS (provided). Shake to mix well.
The concentration is 10 mg/mL
- For IM use: To each reconstituted artesunate vial add 4 mL NS (provided). Shake to mix well.
The concentration is 20 mg/mL
- Reconstituted solution is stable for 1 hour
- Compatible with NS and D5W

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS*

- Anorexia, dizziness, light-headedness, rash, taste alteration, nausea, diarrhea, reversible decrease in reticulocyte count, increased liver enzymes, bradycardia, heart block
- Rare severe allergic reaction has been reported
- Cases of delayed haemolytic anemia have been reported

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Observe patient for 30 minutes following administration for signs of allergic reactions
- Weekly CBCs for one month following treatment to monitor for delayed hemolytic anemia
- No dose adjustment required 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. For more information refer to the information package provided by the Canadian Malaria Network. (Complete Forms A & B found in this package and return to The Canadian Malaria Network as directed)

***REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

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