

**VANCOUVER HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE
CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
NON-FORMULARY DRUG DATA SHEET**

DRUG NAME

Meropenem

ALTERNATE NAME

Merrem™

MANUFACTURER

AstraZeneca

STRENGTH

500 or 1000 mg vials

DOSAGE FORM

Injection

INDICATIONS

- A broad-spectrum carbapenem antibiotic active against aerobic and anaerobic Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria
- Indicated for the treatment of lower respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections (including complicated), intra-abdominal infections, gynecological infections, skin and skin structure infections, septicemia, meningitis, febrile neutropenia, and polymicrobial infections
- Meropenem may be used as an alternative to Imipenem/cilastatin in patients at high risk for seizures, and is preferred in patients on CVVHDF in the ICU

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Administer as IV bolus over 5 minutes or IV intermittent via minibag over 15-30 minutes
- For less severe infections: meropenem 500-1000 mg IV q8-12h
- For severe infections or life-threatening infections (e.g. meningitis): meropenem 2 g IV q8h
- Reduce dosage in renal impairment according to Table 1; Meropenem is removed by hemodialysis

Table 1. Dosage of Meropenem in Renal Failure

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Dosage
26-50	Recommended dose q12h
10-25	One-half recommended dose q12h
< 10	One-half recommended dose q24h

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS*

- Injection-site reactions, rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea
- Hypersensitivity reactions

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Store vials at room temperature
- Reconstitute with 10 mL sterile water for each 500 mg of meropenem for concentration of 50 mg/mL
- Compatible in NS (4 hours at RT; 24 hours in fridge), D5W (1 hour at RT; 4 hours in fridge)
- Use with caution in patients with hypersensitivity to penicillins, as meropenem can cause immediate hypersensitivity reactions in patients allergic to penicillins
- Adjust dosage in renal impairment
- Avoid using with probenecid as can increase meropenem half-life by 38%

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

Meropenem.doc
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