

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

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**DRUG NAME**

Ribavirin

**ALTERNATE NAME**Virazole<sup>7</sup>

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**MANUFACTURER**

ICN Pharmaceuticals

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**STRENGTH**

1g (10%) in 10mL vial

**DOSAGE FORM**

Injection

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**INDICATIONS**

A synthetic nucleoside antiviral agent with activity against RNA and DNA viruses. Injectable ribavirin has been used as an antiviral in hemorrhagic fever, Lassa infection, severe measles infection, and HIV. Ribavirin has been used to treat coronavirus that may be associated with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, however its efficacy has not been established.

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**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**For Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome**, the suggested regimen is:

- **Loading dose:** 2g in 100mL D5W or NS IV load. Infuse over 15 minutes.
- **4 days** of 1g in 100mL D5W or NS IV Q6H. Infuse over 15 minutes.
- **3-6 days** of 500mg in 100mL D5W or NS IV Q8H. Infuse over 15 minutes.

If creatinine clearance is 30-50mL/min:

- **Loading dose:** 1.5g in 100mL D5W or NS IV load. Infuse over 15 minutes.
- **4 days** of 750g in 100mL D5W or NS IV Q6H. Infuse over 15 minutes.
- **3-6 days** of 375mg in 100mL D5W or NS IV Q8H. Infuse over 15 minutes.

**Other indications (based on hemorrhagic fever viruses and by manufacturer)**

- **Loading dose:** 30mg/kg IV load. Give as bolus over 15 minutes or diluted followed 8 hours later by:
- **4 days** of 15mg/kg IV Q6H followed by:
- **3 days** of 8mg/kg IV Q8H
- If normal renal function, dosage can be increased from 15mg/kg to 20-25mg/kg over first 4 days and thereafter adjusted accordingly to 15mg/kg or 8 mg/kg depending on condition of the patient.
- In renal dysfunction, loading dose should be reduced to 25mg/kg and maintenance dose should be 12mg/kg for 4 days and 6mg/kg for 3 days.

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**KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS**

- Reversible hemolytic anemia can occur with long-term administration
- Rigors lasting 2-5 minutes can occur with rapid IV infusion or if administered undiluted
- Elevation of uric acid, bilirubin, transient increases in AST and ALT, hyperuricemia, seizures, asthenia have been reported
- Monitor B-HCG screen in females prior to starting; baseline CBC, blood uric acid, LFT's, bilirubin

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**SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS**

- Dilute in 100-250 mL D5W or NS and administer over at least 15 minutes.
- Infusion stable for 24 hours at RT or 3 days when refrigerated.
- If no injectable ribavirin is available, ribavirin powder (6g/vial) can be dissolved in 60mL D5W for a concentration of 100mg/mL. This formulation should only be used for a short period of time until injectable form is available.
- Contraindicated in pregnancy as dose-related teratogenicity has been reported in animal studies.
- Contraception in men and women for 6 months is recommended after receiving ribavirin therapy.
- IV ribavirin does not pose a risk to health care workers unless injected or sprayed onto worker. Rinse with plenty of water if contact in eyes, nose, mouth or skin.

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