VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL
CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMME (SAP) DRUG DATA SHEET

DRUG NAME
Valproate Sodium

ALTERNATE NAME
Valproic Acid, Depacon®

MANUFACTURER
Abbott

STRENGTH
100 mg (of valproic acid) per mL IV solution (5 mL vials)

DOSAGE FORM
Injection

INDICATIONS

- Used for the treatment of seizure disorders when oral therapy or other IV anticonvulsants are temporarily not feasible.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Refractory status epilepticus
  - 20 to 40 mg/kg IV bolus over 5 min (max dose 3000 mg; max rate 10 mg/kg/min)
  - Give undiluted; Important to administer saline flush before and after administration.
- Epilepsy where valproic acid cannot be given orally
  - Treatment-naïve – Initially 5 to 15 mg/kg IV daily (divided BID or TID). Increase dose by 5 to 10 mg/kg daily at one-week intervals.
  - *Replacement for oral therapy* – the total daily IV dose should be equivalent to the total daily oral dose of the valproic acid or divalproex product and should be administered at the same frequency as the oral product.
  - Dilute in 50 to 100 mL of D5W or NS and infuse over a maximum of 50 mg/min
  - Diluted solution is stable for 24 hours in glass bottles or PVC minibags at room temperature
- The vial contains no preservative. Discard unused portions
- Inspect diluted and undiluted solutions prior to administration. Solutions should free from particulate matter and discoloration.

KNOWN SIDE EFFECTS

- Local effects at the site of injection (pain, injection site reaction, inflammation).
- Somnolence, nausea, dizziness.
- Hypotension.
- Other adverse reactions seen with parenteral valproic acid include all of the effects associated with oral administration.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

- Patients should be switched to oral valproate products as soon as clinically possible.
- Monitor serum levels.
- Valproic acid injectable is not available on the Canadian market. Approval must be obtained from the Health Canada Special Access Programme prior to use.
- This document is just a summary. Please refer to the Product Monograph for complete information

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REPORT ANY ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS TO CSU PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

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References:
Cock HR, et al. Established Status Epilepticus Treatment Trial (ESETT). Epilepsia 2011;52(Suppl 8):50-2.
Limdi NA, et al. Efficacy of rapid IV administration of valproic acid for status epilepticus. Neurology 2005;64:353-5.
Limdi NA, et al. Safety of rapid intravenous loading of valproate. Epilepsia 2007;48:478-83.
Trinka E, et al. Efficacy and safety of Intravenous valproate for status epilepticus: A systematic review. CNS 2014;28:623-39.