

DRUG:	DEXAMETHASONE PHOSPHATE
PRESENTATION:	Oral Solution : 1 mg/mL (1000 microgram/mL) Ampoule: 4 mg/mL (4000 microgram/mL)
ACTION & INDICATION:	Synthetic glucocorticoid which acts as an anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive agent Used in neonates for respiratory insufficiency and oedema with acute non-infectious laryngospasm
DOSE:	Days 1 - 3: 75 microgram/kg/dose 12 hourly Days 4 – 6: 50 microgram/kg/dose 12 hourly Days 7 – 8: 25 microgram/kg/dose 12 hourly Days 9 – 10: 10 microgram/kg/dose 12 hourly Duration of Course: As advised by Consultant Neonatologist
PREPARATION:	Diluent: Water for Injections Draw up 0.5 mL (2 mg) of drug and dilute to 20mL with Water for Injections = 100microgram /mL
ADMINISTRATION:	Oral: Given with or immediately after feeds. Intravenous: over 3 - 5 minutes
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	Sepsis, hyperglycaemia, hypertension, adrenal suppression, behavioural disturbances, acute adrenal insufficiency in abrupt withdrawal G.I. bleeding Increases urinary calcium excretion Osteoporosis, growth restriction Increases risk of cerebral palsy
REFERENCES:	DART Regimen Paediatric Research 56(3):477 September 2004
DATE:	January 2011