<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DRUG:</strong></th>
<th><strong>DEXAMETHASONE PHOSPHATE</strong></th>
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</table>
| **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  
Oral:  
- Doses greater than 50 microgram  
  No dilution required.  
- Doses less than 50 microgram  
Dilute as follows  
Take 1mL (1000 microgram) of oral dexamethasone solution and dilute to 10mL with Water for Injections  
= 100microgram/mL  
Dilute immediately before use.  
Discard remaining solution immediately after use |
| **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:** | August 2013 |