**DRUG:** AMIODARONE

**PRESENTATION:**
- Ampoule: 150mg/3mL
- Oral Suspension: 5mg/mL (PMH formulation)

**ACTION & INDICATION:** Amiodarone is an antiarrhythmic agent used to control ventricular and supraventricular arrhythmias.

**DOSE:**
- **IV:** Loading dose of 5 mg/kg over 30 minutes then; 5 microgram/kg/minute (up to 15 microgram/kg/minute, if needed) as a continuous infusion. Taper the IV infusion and switch to oral therapy as soon as possible.
- **ORAL:** Initially 5–10 mg/kg twice daily for 7–10 days, then reduced to maintenance dose of 5–10 mg/kg once daily.

**PREPARATION:**
- **Diluent:** Glucose 5% only.
- **Intravenous bolus:** Dilute to 1 to 2mg/mL with glucose 5%.
- **Intravenous Infusion:** To give a dose of 5 microgram/kg/minute when infused at 1mL/hour:
  - Take 15mg of amiodarone per kg of baby's weight (0.3mL/kg) and dilute to 50mL with glucose 5% (only).

**ADMINISTRATION:**
- **ORAL:** Amiodarone should be given at the same time with relation to food.
- **IV:** Give over at least 30 minutes. Administration times of 60 minutes or longer have been used.

**NON-PVC IV TUBING SHOULD BE USED.**

**ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Rapid IV administration is associated with hypotension and dysrhythmias. Nausea, vomiting, raised serum transaminases, jaundice, bradycardia, pneumonitis, pulmonary fibrosis, tremor, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, reversible corneal microdeposits, phototoxicity, persistent slate-grey skin discolouration.
Less commonly - worsening of arrhythmia, sinus arrest, peripheral neuropathy and myopathy, bronchospasm, ataxia, benign intracranial hypertension, vertigo, haemolytic or aplastic anaemia, thrombocytopenia, rash, hypersensitivity including vasculitis, alopecia, anaphylaxis on rapid injection.

**COMMENTS:** Ampoules of amiodarone contain benzyl alcohol. Large amounts of benzyl alcohol in neonates have been associated with “gasing syndrome”. This is a potentially fatal condition characterised by metabolic acidosis, respiratory distress, gasping resprations, convulsions, intracranial haemorrhage, hypotension and cardiovascular collapse.
Amiodarone should not be used in patients with sinus bradycardia or sinoatrial heart block.
Thyroid, liver and pulmonary function should be monitored during amiodarone therapy.

**REFERENCES:**
- MIMS, 2013.

**DATE:** August 2013