AZITHROMYCIN

Read in conjunction with Disclaimer

Formulary: Restricted	
Presentation	**Vial:** 500 mg powder for reconstitution **Powder for oral suspension:** 200 mg/5 mL = **40 mg/mL**
Classification	Macrolide antibiotic.
Indication	• Pertussis (post exposure prophylaxis or treatment). • Chlamydial conjunctivitis.
Precautions	• Use with caution in patients with impaired hepatic or renal function. • Known QT prolongation (avoid use).
Monitoring	Liver function tests, heart rate and blood pressure during IV infusion.
Compatibility	**Fluids:** Sodium chloride 0.9%, sodium chloride 0.45%, glucose 5%, glucose in sodium chloride solutions.
Incompatibility	**Fluids:** No information. **Y-site:** Amikacin, amiodarone, cefotaxime, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin, clindamycin, furosemide, midazolam, morphine sulphate, piperacillin-tazobactam, tobramycin.
Interactions	Avoid use with: • Medications that can prolong the QT interval. • Digoxin (may result in digoxin toxicity).
Adverse Effects	**Common:** Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and cramps, candidal infections.
	Infrequent: Rash, headache.
	Rare: Infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis (see below), hypersensitivy, ototoxicity, *Clostridiodes difficile* associated disease, cholestatic hepatitis, pancreatitis, prolonged QT interval, blood dyscrasias.
	Infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis is associated with the use of azithromycin in infants, use with caution in neonates and young infants. The greatest incidence is in the first 2 weeks of life, reducing after this time with no increase in incidence after 7 weeks of age.
Storage & Stability	**Vial:** Store below 25°C. Protect from light. **Suspension:** Store below 30°C. • After reconstitution, store below 30°C and discard any remaining suspension after 10 days.

ORAL

Presentation (for oral use)	**Powder for oral suspension**: 200 mg/5 mL = **40 mg/mL**
Dosage	**Pertussis (post exposure prophylaxis or treatment):** 10 mg/kg once daily for 5 days.
	Chlamydial conjunctivitis: 20 mg/kg once daily for 3 days.
Preparation	*Reconstitution steps may differ between brands, refer to product packaging for reconstitution instructions.* **Reconstitution for Zithromax®:** 1. Tap the bottle to loosen the powder. 2. Add 9 mL of sterile water to the azithromycin powder for suspension. 3. Close and shake well.
Administration	• Shake well before each use. • Draw prescribed dose into oral/enteral syringe. • Can be given Oral/OGT/NGT. • May be given anytime in relation to feeds.

INTRAVENOUS INFUSION

Presentation (for IV use)	**Vial:** 500 mg powder for reconstitution
Dosage	**Pertussis (post exposure prophylaxis or treatment):** 10 mg/kg once daily for 5 days.
Preparation	**Step 1 Reconstitution:** • Add 4.8 mL of water for injection to the 500 mg azithromycin vial. • Concentration is 500 mg/5 mL = 100 mg/mL. **Step 2 Dilution:** • Draw up 100 mg (1 mL) and make up to 50 mL total volume with a compatible fluid. *Concentration now equal to* **2 mg/mL**.
Administration	**IV infusion:** Infuse via syringe driver pump over 1 to 3 hours.

Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

CAHS Neonatology – Medication Administration Guideline

References

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