


SURFACTANT (Bovine) BERACTANT (Survanta®)

Read in conjunction with [Disclaimer](#)

Formulary: Restricted Requires Neonatologist review within 24 hours of initiation.	
Presentation	Vial: 25 mg/mL (8 mL vial)
Classification	Pulmonary surfactant – derived from natural bovine lung extract.
Indication	Treatment and prevention of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS).
Special Considerations	For all indications, Beractant (Survanta®) is the most cost-effective and hence preferred surfactant preparation, except in extremely preterm infants (25 weeks and less) where Poractant Alfa (Curosurf®) is to be used or as per the Neonatal Consultant.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous oxygen saturation and cardiorespiratory monitoring. Evaluate clinical condition before administration and for 30 minutes after each dose.
Side Effects	Common: Transient bradycardia (11.9% of doses) and oxygen desaturation (9.8% of doses).
	Infrequent: Endotracheal tube reflux, pallor, vasoconstriction, hypotension, endotracheal tube blockage, hypertension, hypocarbia, hypercarbia and apnoea.
Storage & Stability	Refrigerate at 2 to 8°C, do not freeze. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store in the original package to protect from light and moisture. Discard 12 hours after opening. Unopened, unused vials of Beractant (Survanta®) that have been warmed to room temperature can be returned to the refrigerator within 8 hours, for future use. Document on the packaging the date and time that the product was removed from the fridge. Beractant (Survanta®) should not be warmed to room temperature and returned to the refrigerator more than once. Contact Pharmacy for further details.
Comments	Beractant (Survanta®) should not be mixed with any other medications or fluids.

INTRATRACHEAL	Presentation	Vial: 25 mg/mL (8 mL vial)	
	Dosage	<i>Intratracheal administration only.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 mL/kg per dose (100 mg/kg per dose). Dose may be repeated every 6 hours as required. Maximum of 4 doses (16 mL/kg) in first 48 hours of life.	
	Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow to warm to room temperature prior to use, stand at room temperature for 20 minutes or warm vial in hands for 8 minutes. Do not use artificial warming methods. If settling occurs during storage, swirl the vial gently to redisperse. Do not shake vial. Inspect for discolouration – colour should be off-white to light brown. 	
	Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not shake vial. For intratracheal administration only. Beractant (Survanta®) should not be instilled into a main stem bronchus. Refer to Surfactant Therapy Guideline for administration. 	

Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[CAHS Neonatology – Surfactant Therapy](#)

Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[CAHS Neonatology – Medication Administration Guideline](#)

[WNHS Cold Chain Management for Medications and Vaccines](#)

[CAHS Medication Refrigerators and Freezers](#)

References



AusDI. Survanta® (Beractant) Suspension. In: AusDI By Medical Director [Internet]. Australia: AusDI by Medical Director; 2019 [cited 2025 Apr 10]. Available from: <https://www.ausdi.com/>

Australian Medicines Handbook. Beractant. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2025 [cited 2025 Apr 10]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

Truven Health Analytics. Beractant. In: NeoFax [Internet]. Greenwood Village (CO): Truven Health Analytics; 2025 [cited 2025 Apr 10]. Available from: <https://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/>

UpToDate Lexidrug. Beractant: Pediatric drug information. In: UpToDate Lexidrug [Internet]. Wolters Kluwer; 2025. [cited 2025 Apr 10]. Available from: <https://www.uptodate.com/>

Document history

Keywords	Survanta, surfactant, beractant, RDS, respiratory distress syndrome, bovine				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH & PCH Pharmacy/Neonatology Directorate				
Version Info:	V4.0 – full review				
Date First Issued:	10/2013	Last Reviewed:	10/04/2025	Review Date:	10/04/2030
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Group			Date:	30/04/2025
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		
<p>Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.</p> <p>Access the current version from WNHS HealthPoint.</p>					

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

© North Metropolitan Health Service 2025