



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Clonidine

Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

Medication Class

Centrally acting alpha₂ adrenoreceptor and imidazoline agonist

Presentation

Tablet: 100microg, 150microg

Ampoule: 150microg/mL

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C. Protect from light.

Dose

Menopausal flushing

Oral: Initially 25microg twice daily, increase if necessary after 2 weeks to 50microg twice daily; maximum 75 microg twice daily.

Hypertension

Oral: Initially 50-100 microg twice daily, increase by 100-200 microg daily every 2-3 days. Maintenance 150-300 microg twice daily.

IV/IM: 150-300 microg, repeated every 3-6 hours if necessary; maximum 750 microg in 24

hours

Perioperative use

Under the direction of the anaesthetist in all circumstances

IV bolus:

0.5 - 1.5 microg/kg bolus. Maximum 150 microg

Intrathecal bolus:

15 – 45 microg (added to intrathecal local anaesthetic solution)

Epidural bolus:

75 microg (added to epidural local anaesthetic solution, or diluted in 10mL NaCl 0.9%)

Epidural infusion:

Add clonidine to the local anaesthetic infusion solution to make a clonidine 1.5microg/ml solution (i.e. add clonidine150microg to a 100 ml local anaesthetic infusion or clonidine 300 microg to a 200ml infusion). Max clonidine infusion rate 30 microg/hr

Premedication:

Oral dosage as per anaesthetist instruction

Post-operative pain relief:

Dosage as per anaesthetist/ Acute Pain Service (APS)

For more information, refer to [Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine Clinical Practice Guideline: Neuraxial Analgesia](#)

Administration

IV/IM: Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

IM Injection

Ensure patient is lying down before administration.

Oral

With or without food.

Monitoring

IV/IM Use:

- If injected too rapidly, may cause mild hypertension that lasts about 5 minutes.
- Mild transient headache may occur with IV use.
- Monitor blood pressure.

Maintenance dose

- Withdraw over at least 7 days; stopping abruptly may precipitate a severe withdrawal syndrome.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Monitoring required

2nd Trimester: Monitoring required

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Menopause & Menopausal Symptoms](#)

[Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine: Neuraxial Analgesia \(including epidural, intrathecal morphine\)](#)

References









Australian Medicines Handbook. Clonidine (anaesthesia). In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2022 [cited 2022 Mar 4]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

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