ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID (UDCA)	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Restricted

Medication Class

Gastrointestinal drug

Presentation

Tablet: 500 mg

Capsule: 250 mg

Oral liquid: 50 mg/mL

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Do not use Ursofalk Suspension after 4 months of opening the bottle

Dose

Obstetric cholestasis

Route: Oral

10-15mg/kg daily in 2 or 3 doses, adjust dose according to response up to a maximum dose of 2000 mg daily in two to four divided doses. Usual dose is 250 mg to 500 mg 3 times a day.

Administration

Oral:

Can be taken with or without food

Ursodeoxycholic acid capsules and tablets should be swallowed whole with a full glass of water because the content is bitter

For people with swallowing difficulties, capsules can be opened and dispersed in water or mixed with yoghurt or apple puree

Monitoring

Liver function and bilirubin each month for first 3 months then every 3 months. Monitoring may need to be individualised on a case-by-case basis, particularly in severe cholestasis, where more frequent assessment of liver function tests (LFTs) and bile acid levels is required.

The dose before measurement of bile acids should be withheld until the blood is taken.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Considered safe to use

3rd Trimester: Considered safe to use

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

Comments

Obstetric cholestasis - this is a non-PBS indication

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Policies:

Cholestasis in pregnancy

References

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