

## NOT FOR USE IN TRAUMATIC SUBARACHNOID HAEMORRHAGE

### NIMODIPINE CHOICE:

**FIRST CHOICE:**

**ORAL NIMODIPINE**

**SECOND CHOICE:**

**INTRAVENOUS NIMODIPINE**

### ADULT ORAL Nimodipine Dose:

- Preferentially use the oral route if available.
- The ADULT oral nimodipine dose is 60mg every 4 hours (total daily dose of 360mg) for 21 days.

### ADULT INTRAVENOUS Nimodipine Dose:

- **More than 70kg and with stable BP:** First two hours of treatment: continuously infuse nimodipine 1mg/hour via a central catheter. Providing no severe decrease in blood pressure is observed increase to 2mg/hour thereafter.
- **Less than 70kg or with unstable BP:** Initially infuse maximum of 0.5mg/hour. Titrate as permissible by blood pressure to a maximum of 2mg/hr.

### Administration of INTRAVENOUS Nimodipine:

- Nimodipine must only be administered as a continuous infusion via a central venous catheter (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) or femoral line will suffice) using an infusion pump. Nimodipine solution has to be administered with a co-infusion solution via a Y-set.
- Each vial of intravenous nimodipine (Nimotop®) is supplied with a polyethylene infusion line for administration of intravenous nimodipine.
- Draw up nimodipine solution (10mg/50ml) into a 50ml syringe and connect it to the polyethylene infusion line provided.
- Nimodipine solution reacts with polyvinylchloride (PVC) and should not be allowed to come in contact with it. The Y-set must be polyethylene lined and have an antisiphon valve i.e. Vygon protect-a-line 3 flexible "Y" set (product code 832.03).
- Nimodipine solution must **not** be added to an infusion bag or bottle
- Nimodipine must **not** be mixed with any other drugs.
- Connect the first port of the Y-set to the polyethylene line attached to the nimodipine syringe.
- The co-infusion solution should then be connected to the second port of the Y-set.
- The Y-set should then be connected to the central venous catheter.
- Nimodipine solution must be administered with a co-infusion running at a rate of 40 ml/hr of either sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%.
- For a list of compatible co-infusions please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk).
- The type of pump used is not critical.
- Nimodipine solution may be used during anaesthesia, angiography or surgical procedures.

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**Duration of INTRAVENOUS Nimodipine Therapy:**

- Intravenous treatment should begin as soon as possible after neurological deficit occurs due to arterial spasm, post-subarachnoid haemorrhage.
- Continue the intravenous preparation for at least five days up to a maximum of 14 days.
- In the event of nimodipine tablets and intravenous solution being used sequentially, the total duration of treatment should not exceed 21 days.

**Monitoring of ORAL and INTRAVENOUS Nimodipine:**

- Monitor blood pressure and liver function, especially during co-administration with Cytochrome P450 enzyme inhibitors (enhancement of metabolism and decreased nimodipine effect). See BNF for specific interactions.
- Patients with abnormal liver function are more susceptible to nimodipine accumulation due to a reduction in metabolism and hence greater blood pressure reducing effects. Dose decrease or cessation of treatment should be considered in these patients.
- Patients with known renal disease and/or receiving nephrotoxic drugs should have renal function monitored closely during intravenous treatment with nimodipine solution.

**Contra-indications to Nimodipine Therapy:**

- Nimodipine should not be administered to patients during or within one month of a myocardial infarction or an episode of unstable angina.
- Co-administration with rifampicin or anti-epileptic Cytochrome P450 enzyme inducers can result in rapid metabolism of nimodipine; decreasing its effects.

**Further Prescribing Information :**

- It is expected that contra-indications and interactions as per the BNF will be assessed for patients on an individual basis prior to prescribing any medication.
- Please refer to [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) for further information.

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