

VASOPRESSIN for hypotension in organ donors
(Also known as Argipressin, Pitressin)

PRESENTATION:	Ampoules containing 20units/ml of Vasopressin
INDICATION:	First line drug for management of hypotension associated with satisfactory filling pressures. If an additional vasoconstrictor is required to maintain SVR then low dose noradrenaline should be used.
DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:	<p>ICU Standard Intravenous Infusion</p> <p>20 units vasopressin, made up to 50mls with glucose 5%. Initially 1.2mls/hour (0.48units/hour), titrated according to response to 10mls/hour (4 units/hour). Infuse through a central venous catheter.</p> <p>Give at a continuous rate of between 0.5 and 4 units per hour.</p>
CONCENTRATION:	Dilute the contents of 1 ampoule (20 units) to 50ml with infusion fluid to produce a 0.4units in 1ml solution.
STABILITY/STORAGE:	<p>Physically and chemically stable for 12 hours at room temperature. Less stable in sodium chloride 0.9%</p> <p>Storage requirement is dependent on brand used at the time; check package insert for storage requirements. Do not freeze.¹</p>
ADVERSE EFFECTS:	<p>Extravasation may cause local tissue necrosis, therefore vasopressin must be administered via a dedicated central line. Monitor blood pressure, respiration and heart rate. Vasopressin must be gradually reduced as abrupt withdrawal can cause rebound hypotension.</p> <p>Vasopressin may constrict coronary arteries. Chest pain, myocardial ischaemia and infarction have occurred following injection, and fatalities have been reported. Other cardiovascular effects include arrhythmias and bradycardia as well as hypertension.²</p> <p>Peripheral vasoconstriction has resulted in gangrene and thrombosis; local irritation at the injection site may occur.² Patients should be closely monitored for any signs of reduced peripheral perfusion.</p> <p>Anaphylaxis (shock and/or cardiac arrest) have been known to occur following administration of Vasopressin¹</p>

References:

1. Compendium of Data Sheets and Summaries of Product Characteristics: (Accessed via medicines.org.uk on 7/7/11: Pitressin 20PU/ml Solution for Injection, Goldshield, last updated June 2008
2. Martindale "The Complete Drug Reference". Accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com on 7/7/11
3. American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information. Accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com on 7/7/11
4. Trissel "Handbook on Injectable Drugs" Accessed via www.medicinescomplete.com on 7/7/11
5. British National Formulary No. 61 March 2011
6. Injectable Drug Administration Guide, 3rd Edition, Pharmacy Department, University College Hospitals NHS Trust 2010
7. Medusa Injectable Medicines Guide – Vasopressin monograph Feb 2009
8. NHS Blood and Transplant. Donation after brainstem death. Donor optimisation extended care bundle version 20.09.12
9. Minimum infusion volumes for fluid restricted critically ill patients. Critical Care Group. UKCPA. Fourth Edition. December 2012.
10. Personal communications with Lesley Logan on behalf of NHSBT regarding doses. September 2016.