

Amiodarone Hydrochloride 50 mg/ml

Concentrate for Solution for Injection/Infusion

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If any of the side effects becomes serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Amiodarone is and what it is used for
2. Before you are given Amiodarone
3. How Amiodarone is given
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Amiodarone
6. Further information

1. WHAT AMIODARONE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

What is Amiodarone used for?

Amiodarone is used to treat irregular beating of your heart called "arrhythmias". Amiodarone works by controlling your heart if it is not beating normally.

Amiodarone as a solution for injection is normally only given when a quick response is needed or if you are unable to take tablets.

Your doctor will give you the injection and you will be monitored under hospital or specialist supervision.

2. BEFORE YOU ARE GIVEN AMIODARONE

Do not use Amiodarone if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to amiodarone, iodine or any of the other ingredients of Amiodarone (see section 6: "Further Information").
- you have a slower than usual heartbeat (called sinus bradycardia) or are suffering from an illness which causes irregular heartbeats (e.g. sino-atrial block, sick sinus syndrome).
- you have any other problems with your heart and do **not** have a pacemaker, for example if you have AV block (a type of heart conduction disorder).
- your thyroid gland is not working properly.
- you are taking certain other medicines which could affect your heartbeat (see also "Using other medicines").
- the person that would be given this medicine is a premature baby or a neonate or a child up to 3 years old.

Amiodarone must not be given if you:

- are pregnant or breastfeeding (its use is only allowed in life-threatening circumstances).

Take special care with Amiodarone

Your doctor will carefully and regularly monitor your ECG and blood pressure, liver and thyroid function if:

- you have a weak heart or heart failure.
- you have low blood pressure.
- you have liver problems.
- you have any problems with your lungs including asthma.

Consult your doctor if any of the above mentioned warnings apply to you, or have applied to you in the past.

Using other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. This is especially important with the following medicines as they may interact with amiodarone:

- Medicines for an irregular heartbeat (e.g. quinidine, procainamide, disopyramide and sotalol).
- Medicines to improve blood supply to the brain (e.g. vincamine).
- Medicines for mental illnesses (e.g. sultopride, sulpiride, pimozide) and some types of medicines called phenothiazines (e.g. thioridazine).
- Medicines used for digestive problems (e.g. cisapride).
- Medicines for infections (e.g. moxifloxacin, erythromycin).
- Injections of pentamidine (used in certain types of pneumonia).
- Certain antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline, clomipramine, dosulepin, doxepin, imipramine, lofepramine, nortriptyline, trimipramine, maprotiline).
- Medicines used for hay fever, rashes or other allergies called antihistamines (e.g. terfenadine).
- Medicines for malaria (e.g. halofantrine).

Not recommended

It is not recommended to use the following medicines at the same time as Amiodarone:

- Medicines for heart problems and high blood pressure called **beta-blockers** (e.g. propranolol).
- Medicines for chest pain (angina) or high blood pressure called **calcium channel blockers** (e.g. diltiazem or verapamil).

Caution

You should use caution when using the following medicines at the same time as amiodarone. These medicines can cause low blood levels of potassium which can increase the risk of life-threatening irregular heartbeats.

- Laxatives - used for constipation (e.g. bisacodyl, senna).
- Corticosteroids - used for inflammation (e.g. prednisolone).
- Tetracosactide - used to test some hormone problems.
- Diuretics (water tablets) e.g. furosemide.

- Amphotericin, when give directly into a vein - used for fungal infections.

Amiodarone may increase the effects of the following medicines:

- Medicines used for thinning the blood (e.g. warfarin). Your doctor should adjust your dose and monitor your treatment closely.
- Phenytoin - used to treat fits.
- Digoxin - used for heart problems. Your doctor should monitor your treatment closely and may adjust your dose of digoxin.
- Flecainide - used for uneven heart beats. Your doctor should monitor your treatment closely and may adjust your dose of flecainide.
- Medicines for high cholesterol called statins (e.g. simvastatin or atorvastatin).
- Ciclosporin or tacrolimus - used to help prevent rejection of transplants.
- Fentanyl - used for pain relief.
- Lidocaine - a local anaesthetic.
- Sildenafil - used to treat erection problems.
- Midazolam and triazolam - used to help you relax e.g. before a medical procedure.
- Ergotamine - used for migraines.

Surgery

If you are to have any surgery, you must tell the doctors treating you that you are using Amiodarone.

Using Amiodarone with food and drink

Food and drink do not affect the therapeutic efficacy of this medicine as it is not administered by the oral route.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Your doctor will prescribe Amiodarone only if he considers the benefit of treatment outweighs the risks during your pregnancy. Amiodarone can be used during pregnancy in life-threatening circumstances only.

You should not be given Amiodarone if you are breast-feeding. If you are given amiodarone during pregnancy or breast-feeding, breastfeeding should be stopped.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines

Amiodarone may affect your ability to drive or use machines. Do not drive or use machines if you are affected. In such a case ask your doctor for advice.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Amiodarone

This product contains benzyl alcohol (22.2 mg/ml).

It may cause toxic reactions and allergic reactions in infants and children up to 3 years old.

3. HOW AMIODARONE IS GIVEN

Amiodarone is given into a vein (intravenously as an injection or infusion) and administered by a doctor or nurse.

Dosage

The daily dose of Amiodarone depends on the severity of your illness. The dose and the treatment times will be determined by your doctor, who will adjust these especially for you.

Unless otherwise prescribed by your doctor, the usual dose is 5 mg per kg of body weight. Your medicine will be injected over a period of at least 3 minutes.

When Amiodarone is given as an injection

- you should not be given a dose greater than 5 mg per kg of body weight.
- the dose should be given to you slowly over a period of at least 3 minutes (unless you are being given the medicine for resuscitation).
- the doctor must wait for at least 15 minutes before giving you another injection.
- repeated or continuous administration may cause inflammation of the vein and damage to the skin at the injection site (the surrounding skin may feel warm and tender and redness may be present) and in such situations a "central venous catheter" is recommended for use by your doctor.

When Amiodarone is given as an infusion

- you should be given a dose of 5 mg/kg bodyweight diluted in 250 ml of 5% glucose solution.
- the dose should be given to you over a period of 20 minutes to 2 hours.

The administration may be repeated 2-3 times per day. Most of the side effects which occur during treatment occur if you are given too much Amiodarone. You should therefore be given the lowest possible dose of Amiodarone. This will keep side effects to a minimum. See also "If you have received more Amiodarone than you should".

Adults

The usual dose is 5 mg for every kilogram of your weight given over a period of 20 minutes to 2 hours.

You may be given another dose of 10 to 20 mg for every kilogram of weight every 24 hours depending on your illness.

In an emergency, your doctor may decide to give you

The following information is intended for medicinal or healthcare professionals only:

PREPARATION GUIDE FOR:

Amiodarone Hydrochloride 50 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Injection/Infusion

- Clear pale yellow solution, in a clear and colourless glass ampoule.
- pH: 3.5-4.5
- For intravenous use

Incompatibilities

Amiodarone is incompatible with saline solution and may only be administered in a 5% Glucose Intravenous Infusion solution.

In the presence of amiodarone the use of administration equipment containing softening agents such as DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) may cause DEHP to leach

into the solution. In order to minimise patient exposure to DEHP, diluted amiodarone solutions for infusion should be administered through sets that do not contain DEHP, such as polyolefin (PE, PP) or glass sets. No other agents may be added to amiodarone infusions.

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned below.

Before use, the sterile concentrate should be visually inspected for clarity, particulate matter, discolouration and the integrity of the container. The solution should only be used if it is clear and the container is undamaged and intact.

a dose of 150 mg to 300 mg as a slow injection over 3 minutes.

Your doctor will monitor your response to Amiodarone and the dose will be adjusted accordingly.

Infants and children

There are only limited data on the efficacy and safety in children. Your doctor will decide on an appropriate dose.

Elderly

As with all patients it is important that the minimum effective dose is used. Your doctor will carefully calculate how much Amiodarone you should get and monitor your heart rate and thyroid function more closely.

Your doctor will change you over to amiodarone tablets as soon as possible.

If you have received more Amiodarone than you should

As this medicine will be given to you whilst you are in hospital or under the care of your doctor it is unlikely that you will be given too much.

If, however, you have received higher doses than those recommended you will be carefully monitored by your doctor and will receive supportive therapy if necessary.

You may experience the following effects: feeling sick, being sick, constipation or sweating. You may have an abnormally slow or fast heartbeat.

If you have any further question on the use of this product, ask your doctor or other healthcare professional.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Amiodarone can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The following side effects have been reported:

Common (affects 1 to 10 users in 100)

- Slow heart rate
- Drop in blood pressure and rapid heart rate. These side effects occur straight after injection. The effects are usually moderate and temporary. They can be serious if you are given too much Amiodarone too quickly.
- At the site where you are given the injection or infusion you may experience:
 - Pain
 - Skin redness or a change in skin colour
 - Localised soft-tissue damage
 - Fluid leakage
 - Swelling caused by fluid within the skin
 - Inflammation or inflamed blood vessels
 - Abnormally hard tissue
 - Infection

Rare (affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000)

- Allergic reactions. Symptoms of such reactions include:
 - A lack of blood platelets accompanied by bruising and a tendency to bleed
 - Blood vessel disorders
 - Kidney disorders
- The excipient benzyl alcohol may cause hypersensitivity reactions.

Very rare (affects less than 1 user in 10,000)

- Headache
- Increase in pressure inside the skull, accompanied by headache, feeling sick and vomiting
- Severe slow heart beat
- Newly occurring heart rhythm disorder or worsening of existing heart rhythm disorders.
- Heart conduction disorders
- Hot flushes
- Difficulty in breathing
- Lung damage
- Feeling sick
- Liver function abnormalities
- Acute liver dysfunction
- Sweating
- Anaphylactic shock. Symptoms of anaphylactic shock include:
 - A sharp fall in blood pressure
 - Paleness
 - Restlessness
 - Weak and rapid heartbeat
 - Clammy skin
 - Reduced consciousness

If any of the side effects becomes serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or healthcare professionals.

5. HOW TO STORE AMIODARONE

- Your doctor or pharmacist is responsible for storing Amiodarone. They are also responsible for disposing of any unused Amiodarone correctly.
- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Do not use Amiodarone after the expiry date (EXP:) printed on the pack. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not use Amiodarone if you notice the solution is not clear and free of particles or if the container is damaged.
- Keep the ampoule in the outer carton in order to protect from light.
- Do not store above 25°C. Do not refrigerate or freeze.
- Reconstituted/diluted solution should be used immediately.
- For single use only. Discard any unused solution.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Amiodarone contains

The active substance is amiodarone.

Each millilitre contains 50 milligrams (mg) of amiodarone hydrochloride equivalent to 46.9 mg amiodarone.

1 ampoule with 3 ml Amiodarone contains 150 mg amiodarone hydrochloride.

One ampoule of Amiodarone diluted as recommended in 250 ml of 5% w/v Glucose infusion results in a concentration of 0.6 mg/ml of amiodarone hydrochloride. The other ingredients are: Polysorbate 80 (E433), benzyl alcohol and water for injections.

What Amiodarone looks like and contents of the pack

Amiodarone is a clear, pale yellow sterile solution.

Pack sizes:

Amiodarone is available as 5 ml glass ampoule with 3 ml concentrate for solution for infusion/injection in packs of 5 or 10.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

hameln pharma plus gmbh
Langes Feld 13
31789 Hameln
Germany

Distributor:

hameln pharmaceuticals ltd
Nexus, Gloucester Business Park
Gloucester, GL3 4AG, United Kingdom

Manufacturer:

hameln pharmaceuticals gmbh
Langes Feld 13
31789 Hameln
Germany

Strides Acrolab Polska

Sp z oo, 10, Daniszewska Str,
03-230 Warsaw
Poland

This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:

DE	Amiodaron-hameln 50 mg/ml Konzentrat zur Herstellung einer Injektions-/Infusionslösung
FI	Amiodaron Hameln 50 mg/ml injektio-/infusiokonsentraatti, liuosta varten
SE	Amiodaron Hameln 50 mg/ml konzentrat till injektions-/infusionsvätska, lösning
UK	Amiodarone Hydrochloride 50 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Injection/Infusion

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Dilution

The ampoule should be diluted with glucose 5%.

For each ampoule, a maximum of 250 ml glucose 5% infusion should be used. Greater dilutions are unstable. Amiodarone, diluted in a 5% glucose solution to a concentration of < 0.6 mg/ml, is not stable. Solutions containing less than 2 Amiodarone ampoules in 500 ml of 5% glucose are unstable and must not be used.

Stability in solution

The diluted product is physically and chemically stable for 24 hours at room temperature. However, from a microbiological viewpoint, the product should be used immediately after dilution.

Storage

Do not store above 25°C. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

Keep the ampoules in the outer carton in order to protect

from light.

Amiodarone is intended for single dose use only. Any unused solution should be discarded immediately after initial use.

The dilution is to be made under aseptic conditions. The solution is to be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. The solution should only be used if the solution is clear and free from particles.