



REGIONAL ADULT PARENTERAL DRUG MONOGRAPH

GENERIC NAME
dexamethasone

Effective Date: Dec 2012	CLASSIFICATION Corticosteroid	OTHER NAMES Decadron	PAGE 1 of 1
Revised Date: March 2024			

ADMINISTRATION POLICY:

- IV Intermittent - May be administered by a nurse
- IV Bolus - May be administered by a nurse
- IM/Subcutaneous - May be administered by a nurse

RECONSTITUTION/DILUTION/ADMINISTRATION:

Available as: 4 mg/mL 1 & 5 mL vial, 10 mg/mL 1 mL vial

IV Intermittent: Administer over 15 to 30 minutes

Dose	Dose Preferred Diluent Volumes Bag size
	NaCl 0.9% or D5W
ordered	50 mL

IV Bolus: Administer undiluted over 1 to 3 minutes

IM/Subcutaneous: Administer undiluted

Maximum rate: IV Bolus: over 1 minute

Maximum concentration: 4 mg/mL

DOSAGE:

Usual: 0.5 to 24 mg/day in 2 to 4 divided doses (dose is highly variable; based on indication)

Maximum single dose: 40 mg

Maximum daily dose: 80 mg

STABILITY/COMPATIBILITY:

Stability of Final Admixture: 24 hours at room temperature

Compatibility: Compatible with normal saline, D5W, and saline-dextrose combination

PRECAUTIONS, POTENTIAL ADVERSE REACTIONS:

- Sodium retention, edema, hypokalemia, hyperglycemia, hypertension
- Increased intraocular pressure
- Transitory tingling sensations with rapid injections
- Perineal irritation with high doses
- May cause euphoria, mood swings, depression, anxiety, personality changes, and psychoses.
- Long term therapy predisposes patients to reduced resistance to infection, peptic ulcers, myopathy, diabetes, and osteoporosis.

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND NURSING CONSIDERATIONS:

- With prolonged use, withdrawal of therapy should be gradual