

Preparation of a Hydrocortisone Infusion

Equipment needed

- 100 ml Normal Saline
- 20 gtts giving set
- Sharps container
- Label
- 2 x 100mg vials of hydrocortisone
- 1 x 10 ml Water for injection
- 5 ml syringe
- 2 blunt fill filter needles



- 1 - Perform 7R's of drug administration
- 2 - Confirm presentation of hydrocortisone. (100mg / 2ml)
- 3 - Calculate volume required for adult dosage of 200mg.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Volume required (ml)} &= \frac{\text{Dose required (mg)}}{\text{Dose in vial (mg)}} \times \text{volume in vial (ml)} \\ &= \frac{200 \text{ mg}}{100 \text{ mg}} \times 2 \text{ ml} \\ &= 4 \text{ ml (2 vials required)} \end{aligned}$$



- 4 - Connect a blunt fill filter needle to a 5ml syringe and withdraw 4 ml of water for injection.
- 5 - Remove cap from vial and insert blunt fill filter needle through centre of rubber bung. Add 2 ml of water for injection to the vial, remove the needle and gently rotate the vial to avoid frothing up the medication, leave for 1 minute. Repeat procedure for 2nd vial.
- 6 - Using the same blunt fill filter needle draw up 2 ml from each vial. Remove blunt fill filter needle from the syringe and dispose of it in a sharps bin. Replace with a new blunt fill filter needle. (This will ensure that no particles are transferred to the infusion bag.)
- 7 - Discard excess medication from syringe if preparing a paediatric infusion. For paediatrics under 6yo, 50 ml of normal saline may be used to mix infusion.
- 8 - Insert blunt fill filter needle into the injection port of the 100ml normal saline infusion bag and inject the required volume. Dispose of needle and syringe into sharps bin. Invert bag 3 to 4 times.
- 9 - Label Infusion with - Drug name and dosage, volume of normal saline, date, time and your PHECC pin #.
- 10 - Check drip set (20 gtts/ml), close roller clamp, 1/2 fill drip chamber, flush line without wasting medication.
- 11 - Hydrocortisone infusions are given over 1 - 10 minutes so opening up the giving set to a rate greater than 200 gtts / min or 20 gtts / 6 seconds is appropriate.
- 12 - Connect and administer the hydrocortisone, set drip rate.
- 13 - Record hydrocortisone infusion administration on PCR.
- 14 - Monitor the patient.



MEDICAL TREATMENT INFORMATION			
TIME (24H)	MEDICATION TREATMENT		
12:30	Hydrocortisone infusion @ > 20 gtts / 5 seconds		
DOSE	ROUTE	CODE/ABBR/UNIT	PIN
200MG	IV	HC	1234