

SODIUM NITROPRUSSIDE

Form: 1. 50mg + 5ml solvent
2. 50mg/2ml vial

Reconstitution: 1. Add 5ml solvent to vial with powder
2. Already reconstituted.

Further dilution is required before administration

Administration: Continuous IV infusion

Method: a) Dilute reconstituted vial to 500ml with glucose 5% to give 100 micrograms/ml solution.

b) Sodium nitroprusside must be infused by a syringe driver or some other infusion device which will accurately control flow rate.

Compatibility & Stability: Glucose 5%

Once prepared the solution should be protected from light and not be used for longer than 24hours. Wrap syringe or infusion bag with aluminium foil.

Special Notes:

1. Avoid extravasation.
2. Infusions should be gradually stopped over at least 10 to 30 minutes to avoid rebound hypertension.
3. Continuous BP monitoring is essential.
4. Side effects include nausea, headache, restlessness and muscle twitching. (Side effects disappear when the rate of infusion is decreased).
5. This is an unlicensed medication in Ireland.