EPIRUBICIN – DRUG SAFETY INFORMATION

Form: Epirubicin Hydrochloride 2mg/mL solution for Intravenous Infusion

General:

- If there is evidence of damage to the packaging in transit please contact us prior to administration.
- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Protect product from light and store at 2 - 8^{o}C (in the refrigerator) until ready to use.
- The expiry date for the product under the recommended storage conditions will be stated on the label.
- **Single use only**: discard any unused contents
- Any unused product or chemotherapy contaminated waste materials should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements for handling of cytotoxic waste.

Handling and administration:

Do not eat, drink or smoke in chemotherapy handling or administration areas.

Epirubicin is a cytotoxic drug and should only be handled by adequately trained personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff members who are pregnant or trying to conceive should not be involved in the administration of the medication or be present in the immediate work environment when the drug is being administered. Likewise they should not come into contact with the patient's urine, faeces, saliva or vomitus after treatment. Nursing staff involved in the care of hospitalised patients that have received chemotherapy should wear appropriate PPE for handling.

Epirubicin is administered with 0.9% sodium chloride as an intravenous infusion. Preparation of the infusion should be performed in a designated, 'low traffic' area.

Incompatibilities:

Administration equipment and intravenous catheters should not be flushed with heparin containing solutions due to the potential for physical incompatibility with epirubicin.

Prevention of contamination:

- Routes of exposure to chemotherapy agents include ingestion, inhalation, and absorption through the skin and mucous membranes.
- PPE (eye protection, face mask, gloves and protective gowns) should be worn by the vet and handler during drug administration and disposal of contaminated waste.

- The work surface under the patient should be covered with a disposable plastic-backed work mat.
- Skin accidentally exposed to epirubicin should be rinsed copiously with warm water and if the eyes are involved standard irrigation techniques should be used. Medical advice should be sought immediately.

Spill management:

If epirubicin is spilled on equipment or environmental surfaces, non-essential personnel should be instructed not to enter the area. Wearing appropriate PPE, the spillage should be mopped up with absorbent pads. A 1% hypochlorite solution (bleach) should be used to wash and clean the area and dry tissues should be used to absorb the cleaning solution. Following cleansing, the area is rinsed twice with clean water and dried. Contaminated waste should be disposed of appropriately.

Disposal:

Absorbent materials and disposables that have potentially come into contact with epirubicin should be disposed of in cytotoxic waste containers prior to incineration.

Warnings and contraindications:

(At risk groups include pregnant or lactating women, women or men trying to conceive, young children, the elderly or patients receiving chemotherapy themselves).

- Similar to all chemotherapy agents, treatment with epirubicin is associated with toxicity in normal tissues. For this drug these include bone marrow suppression (myelosuppression), gastrointestinal toxicity, reproductive failure and alopecia in certain breeds.
- Epirubicin is a severe vesicant and extravasation injury must be avoided. If this occurs, stop the infusion immediately, attempt to withdraw any drug from the tissues by aspirating the catheter and call immediately for advice.
- Epirubicin is cumulatively cardiotoxic in dogs. The medication should not be administered to patients with inadequate systolic function based on an echocardiogram.
- Acute arrhythmias may occur during administration of epirubicin to dogs and therefore periodic cardiac auscultation or continuous ECG monitoring is recommended through the treatment period. In the event of an arrhythmia developing, stop the infusion immediately and call for advice.
- Acute anaphylaxis during drug administration is also a potential side effect of treatment in dogs. If these signs occur, stop the infusion immediately. Administer dexamethasone intravenously and chlorphenamine and call for advice.
- It would be prudent to monitor renal function in cats receiving epirubicin.

- Concurrent use of other myelosuppressive agents should be avoided unless clinically indicated.
- Peripheral blood counts, with attention to neutrophil and platelet numbers should be monitored closely during treatment.
- Drug residues may be found in the urine and faeces of treated patients for a minimum of **7 days** after treatment and owners must be warned about this hazard. Individuals in at risk groups should be particularly careful to avoid contact with patient excreta and saliva.
- For canine patients, faeces should be double bagged for clean-up and water should be poured over areas where a pet urinates outdoors to dilute any residues. For cats, the litter box should be cleaned every day taking adequate care when handling and bagging any contaminated litter material.

Further information:

Further information is available on request by contacting us at info@chemopet.co.uk or by telephone: 01928 250052.