Package leaflet: Information for the user

Amiodarone 50mg/ml Concentrate for solution for Injection/Infusion

Amiodarone hydrochloride

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Amiodarone is and what it is used for
Amiodarone is used to treat certain heart conditions, for example, when the heart is beating much too rapidly. Amiodarone is used when the patient is not responding to other treatments or when other treatments cannot be used.

2. What you need to know before you are given Amiodarone
Do not use Amiodarone
- if you are allergic to amiodarone hydrochloride, iodine or the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you have a heart condition causing a very slow heart rate (such as heart block or sinus bradycardia), any other heart condition causing very fast or irregular pulse or dizziness
- if you have or have had thyroid problems
- if you have severe breathing problems, severe blood circulatory problems or very low blood pressure
- if you suffer from low blood pressure, heart failure or cardiomyopathy (weakness of the heart muscle) you must not receive Amiodarone as a single injection but only as a slow infusion
- if you are taking certain drugs which may cause a heart condition called Torsades de Pointes (heart rhythm disturbance), such as:
    - other antiarrhythmic heart medicines e.g. quinidine, disopyramide, procainamide, sotalol, bretylium
    - some antibiotic injections e.g. erythromycin, co-trimoxazole or pentamidine
    - some medicines used to treat mental illness e.g. chlorpromazine, thioridazine, pimozide, haloperidol, fluphenazine, amisulpiride and sertindole
    - lithium and tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. doxepin, maprotiline, amitriptyline)
    - some antihistamines - used to treat allergies and hayfever (e.g. terfenadine, astemizole, mizolastine)
    - anti-malarials - used to treat or prevent malaria (e.g. quinine, mefloquine, chloroquine, halofantrine). You must inform your doctor if you are taking any of these medications.
- if you are pregnant or likely to get pregnant
- if you are breast-feeding
- This product must not be given to premature babies, neonates or children up to 3 years old.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor or nurse before using Amiodarone:
- if you are elderly (> 60 years)

- if you are in treatment with digitalis (medicine against reduced heart function) if it is being given as an infusion and you have low blood pressure, severe heart failure or severe cardiomyopathy (weakness of the heart muscle)
- if you have to undergo a surgery, your anaesthesist must be informed that you are in treatment with amiodarone
- if you are in treatment with the following other medicines:
  - beta-blockers, heart rate lowering calcium channel inhibitors (verapamil, diltiazem). Concomitant use of those medicines with amiodarone is not recommended as it might provoke heart problems
  - stimulant laxatives (used if you suffer from constipation). Concomitant use of those medicines with amiodarone is not recommended as it might lower the potassium level in your blood and provoke heart problems

Children
Use in children is not recommended. Treatment should be initiated and normally monitored only at a hospital or by a specialist.

A doctor should be consulted if blurred or decreased vision occurs.

Other medicines and Amiodarone
Tell your doctor if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. Before using Amiodarone please check with your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
- digoxin (used against reduced heart function)
- anticoagulants – used to thin the blood (e.g. warfarin)
- phenytoin (used against epilepsy)
- some calcium channel inhibitors – used to treat high blood pressure and angina (e.g. verapamil, diltiazem)
- ciclosporin (used after transplant operations)
- flecainide (used against disturbances of the heart rate)
- simvastatin or other statins (used to lower cholesterol levels)
- drugs which may change the levels of potassium or magnesium in your blood e.g. diuretics (water tablets), corticoids (antiinflammatory steroids), tetracosactrin or the antifungal amphotericin
- tacrolimus (used to supress the immune system)
- sildenafil (known as "viagra")
- lidocaine (used for local anaesthesia)
- ergotamine (used against migraine)
- fentanyl (a narcotic opioid drug that is used in the treatment of pain)

Amiodarone with food, drink and alcohol
Grapefruit juice can increase the blood level of amiodarone hydrochloride, therefore grapefruit juice should be avoided during treatment with Amiodarone.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
Your doctor will only prescribe Amiodarone if the benefit of the treatment outweighs the risks during your pregnancy.
You should not be given Amiodarone if you are breast-feeding. Amiodarone is excreted in breast milk.
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines
Use of Amiodarone may cause side effects (such as dizziness because of low blood pressure) which to a greater or minor degree may affect occupational safety and ability to move safely in traffic.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Amiodarone
The product contains benzyl alcohol (20 mg/ml) as preservative. It may cause toxic reactions and allergic reactions in infants and children up to 3 years old.

3. How Amiodarone is given

The standard recommended dose is 5 mg per kg of bodyweight. However this may vary depending upon your age and how well you respond to treatment. The doctor will adjust the dosage individually for you. This initial dose may be followed by further infusions 2 to 3 times a day, up to 1200 mg in 24 hours.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation:
The recommended dose for ventricular fibrillations/pulse less ventricular tachycardia resistant to defibrillation is 300 mg (or 5 mg/kg body-weight) diluted in 20 ml 5% dextrose and rapidly injected followed by administration of plain dextrose after the last injection, since amiodarone is very irritating to the veins. An additional 150 mg (or 2.5 mg/kg body-weight) IV dose may be considered if ventricular fibrillation persists.

Change over from intravenous to oral therapy:
As soon as an adequate response has been obtained, oral therapy should be initiated concomitantly at the usual loading dose (i.e. 200 mg three times a day). Amiodarone should then be phased out gradually.

Elderly:
You may be given a lower dose. The doctor will adjust the dosage individually for you.

If you suffer from hepatic or renal impairment:
No dose adjustments are necessary due to those conditions. However elderly patients with hepatic or renal impairment should be more closely monitored (for example in the intensive care unit).

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

This medicine will be diluted using a 5% dextrose solution before it is given to you by a doctor or a nurse. It will be given slowly, usually via a drip into a vein in your arm or chest.

If you think you are given more Amiodarone than you should or if you think you have missed a dose:
As this medicine will be given to you whilst you are in hospital it is unlikely that you will be given too little or too much.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

Tests
Your doctor may do regular thyroid tests while you are taking this medicine. This is because Amiodarone Stragen contains iodine which can cause problems to your thyroid.
Your doctor may also do other regular eye tests both before and while you are having Amiodarone Stragen.

4. Possible side effects
Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people: Generally moderate bradycardia, decrease in blood pressure, itchy, red rash (eczema), skin discolouration, local injection site reactions including swelling, pain, redness, inflammation of some of your blood vessels, phlebitis, or deep skin infection.

If Amiodarone has been given too quickly you may experience hot flushes, sweating or fainting as a result of a too lowered blood pressure.

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people people and Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available date:

Generalised allergic reactions such as swelling of the face, lips and/or tongue, shortness of breath, chest pain, palpitations or abnormal heart rhythm, sweating, nausea, liver disorders possibly with jaundice, headaches, breathing difficulties (with or without fever), inability to breathe.
Feeling unwell, confused or weak, feeling sick (nausea), loss of appetite, feeling irritable. This could be an illness called 'syndrome of inappropriate anti-diuretic hormone secretion' (SIADH).
Feeling extremely restless or agitated, weight loss, increased sweating and being unable to stand the heat. These could be signs of an illness called **'hyper**-thyroidism'. Feeling extremely tired, weak or 'run-down',weight gain, being unable to stand the cold, constipation and aching muscles. These could be signs of an illness called '**hypo**-thyroidism'. Eyesight problems. Back pain.
Sudden inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis (acute)); confusion (delirium); life-threatening skin reactions characterised by rash, blisters, peeling skin and pain (toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Stevens- Johnson syndrome (SJS), bullous dermatitis, Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systematic symptoms (DRESS)).

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via
HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971;
Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Amiodarone

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the outer carton and the ampoules after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Concentrate:
Store in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C).
Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

For single use only.
Discard any unused solution.

After dilution in dextrose 5%, chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 36 hours at 25°C when exposed to light.

From a microbiological point of view, the diluted solution should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2°C to 8°C unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Amiodarone contains
The active substance is amiodarone hydrochloride. Each 3 ml ampoule contains 150 mg of amiodarone hydrochloride. One millilitre sterile concentrate contains 50 mg amiodarone hydrochloride.

The other ingredients are: Benzyl alcohol, polysorbate 80, water for injections, hydrochloric acid (pH adjustment), sodium hydroxide (pH adjustment).

What Amiodarone looks like and contents of the pack

Amiodarone is available as a concentrate for intravenous use.
The product is a clear, pale yellow solution.
The concentrate is supplied as ampoules in a carton box. Each carton box contains 5 ampoules or 10 ampoules.

Marketing Authorisation Holder
Stragen UK Ltd.
41 London Road
Reigate
Surrey RH2 9RJ
UK

Manufacturer
Fisiopharma S.r.l., Nucleo Industriale, 84020-Palomonte (SA), Italy

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

Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden:	Amiodarone 50 mg/ml
Germany:	Amiodaron HCl Stragen 50 mg/ml Konzentrat zur Herstellung einer Injektions- oder Infusionslösung
Ireland:	Amiodarone 50 mg/ml Concentrate for solution for injection or infusion

This leaflet was last revised in November 2015

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only

Iodine content: One ampoule contains 56 mg iodine
For single use only.
Discard any unused solution.
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.

Amiodarone should be administered solely in 5% dextrose solution.
Amiodarone must not be mixed with other medicinal products in the same syringe.

Solutions containing less than 300 mg amiodarone (2 ampoules) in 500 ml of dextrose are not stable and must not be used. It should also be stressed that no other compound has to be mixed to amiodarone infusion solution.

The usual dosing of Amiodarone is described in section 3 of this leaflet.