

shadows, and in diabetes insipidus.

Ten units of Vasopressin (0.5 ml) will usually elicit full physiologic response in adult patients; 5 units will be adequate in many cases. Vasopressin should be given intramuscularly at 3- or 4-hour intervals as needed. The dosage should be proportionately reduced for pediatric patients.

When determining the dose of Vasopressin for a given case, the following should be kept in mind. It is particularly desirable to give a dose not much larger than is just sufficient to elicit the desired physiologic response. Excessive doses may cause undesirable side effects—blanching of the skin, abdominal cramps, nausea—which, though not serious, may be alarming to the patient. Spontaneous recovery from such side effects occurs in a few minutes. It has been found that one or two glasses of water given at the time Vasopressin is administered reduce such symptoms.

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Abdominal Distention

In the average postoperative adult patient, give 5 units (0.25 ml) initially, increase to 10 units (0.5 ml) at subsequent injections if necessary. It is recommended that Vasopressin be given intramuscularly and that injections be repeated at 3- or 4-hour intervals as required. Dosage to be reduced proportionately for pediatric patients.

Vasopressin used in this manner will frequently prevent or relieve postoperative distention. These recommendations apply also to distention complicating pneumonia or other acute toxemias.

Abdominal Roentgenography

For the average case, two injections of 10 units each (0.5 ml) are suggested. These should be given two hours and one-half hour, respectively, before films are exposed. Many roentgenologists advise giving an enema prior to the first dose of Vasopressin.

Diabetes insipidus

Vasopressin may be given by injection. The dose by injection is 5 to 10 units (0.25 to 0.5 ml) repeated two or three times daily as needed.

Method of Administration

FOR I.V./I.M./S.C. USE

Conventionally, C-pressin available in ampoules should be administered by I.M./S.C. route. C-pressin-P available in ampoules should be administered by I.V. route.

4.3 Contraindications

Vasopressin is contraindicated in patients with known allergy or hypersensitivity to 8-L-arginine, Vasopressin or Chlorbutanol.

4.4 Warnings and Precautions

Warnings

This drug should not be used in patients with vascular disease, especially disease of the coronary arteries, except with extreme caution. In such patients, even small doses may precipitate anginal pain, and with larger doses, the possibility of myocardial infarction should be considered. Vasopressin may produce water intoxication. The early signs of drowsiness, listlessness, and headaches should be recognized to prevent terminal coma and convulsions.

Precautions

Worsening Cardiac Function

Use in patients with impaired cardiac response may worsen cardiac output.

General

Vasopressin should be used cautiously in the presence of epilepsy, migraine, asthma, heart failure, or any state in which a rapid addition to extracellular water may produce hazard for an already overburdened system.

Chronic nephritis with nitrogen retention contraindicates the use of Vasopressin until reasonable nitrogen blood levels have been attained.

Reversible Diabetes Insipidus
Patients may experience reversible diabetes insipidus, manifested by the development of polyuria, a dilute urine, and hypernatremia, after cessation of treatment with vasopressin. Monitor serum electrolytes, fluid status, and urine output after vasopressin discontinuation. Some patients may require readministration of Vasopressin or administration of desmopressin to correct fluid and electrolyte shifts.

4.5 Drug Interactions

The following drugs may potentiate the antidiuretic effect of Vasopressin when used concurrently: carbamazepine, chlorpropamide, clobazate, urea, fludocortisone, tri-cyclic antidepressants. 2) The following drugs may decrease the antidiuretic effect of Vasopressin when used concurrently: demeclocycline, norepinephrine, lithium, heparin, alcohol. 3) Ganglionic blocking agents may produce a marked increase in sensitivity to the pressor effects of Vasopressin.

Catecholamines

Use with catecholamines is expected to result in an additive effect on mean arterial blood pressure and other hemodynamic parameters.

Indomethacin

Use with indomethacin may prolong the effect of Vasopressin on cardiac index and systemic vascular resistance.

Ganglionic Blocking Agents

Use with ganglionic blocking agents may increase the effect of Vasopressin on mean arterial blood pressure.

Furosemide

Use with furosemide increases the effect of Vasopressin on osmolar clearance and urine flow.

Drugs Suspected Of Causing SIADH

Use with drugs suspected of causing SIADH (e.g., SSRIs, tricyclic antidepressants, haloperidol, chlorpropamide, enalapril, methylgluta, pentamidine, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, foscarnet, fentanyl) may increase the pressor effect in addition to the antidiuretic effect of Vasopressin.

Drugs Suspected Of Causing Diabetes Insipidus

Use with drugs suspected of causing diabetes insipidus (e.g., demeclocycline, lithium, foscarnet, doxazepine) may decrease the pressor effect in addition to the antidiuretic effect of Vasopressin.

4.6 Use in Specific Populations

Pregnancy

Risk Summary

There are no available data on Vasopressin use in pregnant women to inform a drug associated risk of major birth defects, miscarriage, or adverse maternal or fetal outcomes. Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted.

Clinical Considerations

Dose Adjustments during Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period

Because of increased clearance of Vasopressin in the second and third trimester, the dose of Vasopressin may need to be increased.

Maternal Adverse Reactions

Vasopressin may produce tonic uterine contractions that could threaten the continuation of pregnancy.

Lactation

There are no data on the presence of Vasopressin injection in either human or animal milk, the effects on the breastfed infant, or the effects on milk production.

Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness of Vasopressin in pediatric patients with vasodilatory shock have not been established.

Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of Vasopressin did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

4.7 Adverse Reactions

Local or systemic allergic reactions may occur in hypersensitive individuals. The following side effects have been reported following the administration of Vasopressin.

Body as a Whole

Cardiac: anaphylaxis (cardiac arrest and/or shock) has been observed shortly after injection of Vasopressin.

Bleeding/Lymphatic System Disorders: Hemorrhagic shock, decreased platelets, intracerebral bleeding.

Cardiac Disorders: cardiac arrest, circumpalor pallor, arrhythmias, decreased cardiac output, angina, myocardial ischemia, peripheral vasoconstriction, and gangrene. Right heart failure, atrial fibrillation, bradycardia.

Gastrointestinal Disorders: Mesenteric ischemia, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, passage of gas.

Nervous System: tremor, vertigo, "pounding" in head.

Respiratory: bronchial constriction.

Hepatobiliary: increased bilirubin levels.

Renal/Urinary Disorders: Acute renal insufficiency.

Vascular Disorders: Distal limb ischemia.

Metabolic: Hyponatremia.

Skin: Sweating, urticaria, cutaneous gangrene, ischemic lesions.

4.8 Overdosage

Overdosage with Vasopressin can be expected to manifest as consequences of vasoconstriction of various vascular beds (peripheral mesenteric and coronary) and as hyponatremia. In addition, overdosage may lead less commonly to ventricular tachyarrhythmias (including Torsade de Pointes), rhabdomyolysis, and non-specific gastrointestinal symptoms. Direct effects will resolve within minutes of withdrawal of treatment.

5.0 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

5.1 Pharmacodynamics

Mechanism of Action

Vasopressin causes vasoconstriction by binding to V1 receptors on vascular smooth muscle coupled to the Gq/11-phospholipase C-phosphatidylinositol-triphosphate pathway, resulting in the release of intracellular calcium. In addition, vasopressin stimulates antidiuretic via stimulation of V2 receptors which are coupled to adenylyl cyclase.

At therapeutic doses, exogenous Vasopressin elicits a vasoconstrictive effect in most vascular beds including the splanchnic, renal and cutaneous circulation. In addition, Vasopressin at pressor doses triggers contractions of smooth muscle in the gastrointestinal tract mediated by muscular V1-receptors and release of prolactin and ACTH via V3 receptors. At lower concentrations typical for the antidiuretic hormone Vasopressin inhibits water diuresis via renal V2 receptors. In patients with vasodilatory shock, Vasopressin increases systemic vascular resistance and mean arterial blood pressure and reduces the dose requirements for norepinephrine. Vasopressin tends to decrease heart rate and cardiac output. The pressor effect is proportional to the infusion rate of exogenous Vasopressin. Onset of the pressor effect of Vasopressin is rapid, and the peak effect occurs within 15 minutes. After stopping the infusion the pressor effect fades within 20 minutes. There is no evidence for tachyphylaxis or tolerance to the pressor effect of Vasopressin in patients. The antidiuretic action of Vasopressin is ascribed to increasing reabsorption of water by the renal tubules. Vasopressin can cause contraction of smooth muscle of the gastrointestinal tract and of all parts of the vascular bed, especially the capillaries, small arteries, and venules with less effect on the smooth musculature of the large veins. The direct effect on the contractile elements is neither antagonized by adrenergic blocking agents nor prevented by vascular denervation.

5.2 Pharmacokinetics

Vasopressin plasma concentrations increase linearly with increasing infusion rates from 10 to 200 µU/kg/min. Steady state plasma concentrations are achieved after 30 minutes of continuous intravenous infusion.