

Neonatal Medication Guideline

Clinical Guideline

Phenylephrine

Policy developed by: SA Maternal, Neonatal & Gynaecology Community of Practice

Approved SA Health Safety & Quality Strategic Governance Committee on: 6 October 2017

Next review due: 6 October 2020

Summary The purpose of this guideline is to guide nursing, medical and pharmacy staff in the dosing and administration of phenylephrine eye drops for mydriasis

Keywords phenylephrine, neonatal medication guideline, eye, eye drop, eye exam, mydriasis, hypertension, IVH, intraventricular haemorrhage

Policy history Is this a new policy? **Y**
Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? **N**
Does this policy replace an existing policy? **N**
If so, which policies?

Applies to All SA Health Portfolio
All Department for Health and Ageing Divisions
All Health Networks
CALHN, SALHN, NALHN, CHSALHN, WCHN, SAAS

Staff impact All Clinical, Medical, Midwifery, Nursing, Students, Allied Health, Emergency, Mental Health, Pathology, Pharmacy

PDS reference CG274

Version control and change history

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	6 October 2017	Current	Original version

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phenylephrine

2.5% eye drops

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Note

This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

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Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient's medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

Dose and Indications

Mydriasis

Topical

1 drop into the appropriate eye 30 minutes prior to eye examination.

Preparation and Administration

Topical

Neonates are particularly prone to systemic absorption; this can be reduced by applying finger pressure to the lacrimal sac for up to 2 minutes following application.

Avoid touching the conjunctiva with the tip of the dispenser and discard unused solution.

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South Australian **Neonatal** Medication Guidelines Workgroup at:
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Adverse Effects

Common

Stinging on instillation, wincing, rebound miosis and hyperaemia.

Infrequent

Liberation of iris pigment (probably has no deleterious effects). Periorbital blanching of skin (benign). Increases in blood pressure have been described, and are likely to be more frequent than clinically recognised.

Monitoring

- > Preterm babies undergoing an examination for retinopathy should be monitored for at least 24 hours if less than 36 week post-conception or if they have reacted with apnoea to the previous examination. Babies >36 weeks post-conception do not require routine monitoring.

Practice Points

- > Maximal mydriasis occurs after 60–90 minutes; duration of action is 5–7 hours. Does not affect accommodation.
- > Mydriasis can precipitate acute angle-closure glaucoma (usually in those who are predisposed to the condition because of a shallow anterior chamber).
- > A second application of drops may be required after 15 minutes if pupils have not started dilating, especially in babies with darker irides.
- > Usually used in combination with cyclopentolate.
- > If multiple eye drops or doses are required, separate doses by 2-5 minutes to allow for absorption.
- > Increases in blood pressure are unlikely to be of clinical significance for most babies. However, acute blood pressure increases may be significant in preterm babies at risk of IVH and with pre-existing hypertension. Care should be exercised in these circumstances and consideration given to using cyclopentolate alone

Version control and change history

PDS reference: OCE use only

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