

PARALDEHYDE

SYNONYMS	Paracetaldehyde
BRAND NAME	PARALDEHYDE INJECTION BP
DRUG CLASS	Sedative, antiepileptic
AVAILABILITY	Vial contains 5 mL of paraldehyde. Also contains hydroquinone. The solution is transparent and colourless to pale yellow with a strong odour. ¹

Intramuscular injection of paraldehyde is extremely painful.¹
Severe and permanent nerve damage has occurred when paraldehyde is injected too close to nerve trunks.¹

pH	No information
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Store below 25 °C. Do not refrigerate. Protect from light. ¹ If crystals form, gently warm the vial. Discard if the solution is a brownish colour or smells of vinegar (acetic acid). ¹
ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Inject deep into the gluteal muscle. Do not inject more than 5 mL at any one site. ¹ The ventrogluteal site is preferred.
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended, irritant ¹
IV injection	Not recommended. May cause hypotension, circulatory collapse, haemorrhage and pulmonary oedema. ¹
IV infusion	Not recommended ¹
COMPATIBILITY	No information
INCOMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Glucose 5% ² , sodium chloride 0.9% ²
Drugs	No information
SPECIAL NOTES	Paraldehyde injection can be mixed with equal parts of olive oil and given rectally. This is the preferred route for status epilepticus in children and neonates. ³ Paraldehyde has a solvent action and is incompatible with many plastics and rubber. Use glass syringes if available. Needles with plastic hubs can be used. Polypropylene syringes can be used if the dose is given immediately. ¹ Patients may have a distinctive smell on their breath after a paraldehyde injection. ¹

REFERENCES

1. Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 07/08/2019.
2. Paraldehyde. In: IV index [internet]. Trissel's 2 clinical pharmaceuticals database (parenteral compatibility) Greenwood Village, CO: Truven Health Analytics. Accessed 07/08/2019.
3. Medicines for children. Rectal paraldehyde for stopping seizures. Version 2. June 2014. Available from www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk. Accessed 07/08/2019.