



OXYTOCIN

BRAND NAME	SYNTOCINON, VIATOCINON, OXYTOCIN APX, GH
DRUG CLASS	Oxytocic
AVAILABILITY	Ampoule contains 5 international units/mL or 10 international units/mL of oxytocin. APX ampoule also contains glacial acetic acid and chlorobutanol. ¹ GH ampoule also contains sodium chloride, sodium acetate and glacial acetic acid. ¹ Syntocinon also contains sodium acetate, glacial acetic acid, chlorobutanol, ethanol. ¹ Viatocinon also contains sodium acetate, glacial acetic acid and sodium hydroxide. ¹ The solution is clear and colourless. ¹
pH	3–5 ²
PREPARATION	Not required
STABILITY	Store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. Protect from light. ¹ Viatocinon ampoules are stable for 4 weeks below 25 °C. Do not return to the fridge. ¹ GH ampoules are stable for 3 months below 25 °C. Do not return to the fridge. ¹

ADMINISTRATION	
IM injection	Suitable for third stage of labour and postpartum period. Not recommended for induction or enhancement of labour. ¹
SUBCUT injection	Not recommended
IV injection	Suitable for third stage of labour and postpartum period. Inject slowly over 3 to 5 minutes. Rapid injection can cause transient hypotension and tachycardia. ¹ Not recommended for induction or enhancement of labour. ¹
IV infusion	Suitable for induction and enhancement of labour. ¹ Dilute to a suitable volume with a compatible fluid. ¹ See the table below for examples. Use an infusion pump. Start the infusion at 1–4 milliunits/minute. Increase at intervals of at least 20 minutes as required to a maximum of 20 milliunits/minute. ¹ Standard volume infusion practical examples:

Oxytocin	Compatible fluid	Final concentration	Rate to deliver 1 milliunit/minute
10 international units	1000 mL	10 milliunits/mL	6 mL/hour
10 international units	500 mL	20 milliunits/mL	3 mL/hour
30 international units	500 mL	60 milliunits/mL	1 mL/hour
40 international units	500 mL	80 milliunits/mL	0.75 mL/hour

For patients with fluid restrictions, a low volume infusion may be required. Consult your local guidelines.¹ Low volume infusion practical examples:

Oxytocin	Compatible fluid	Final concentration	Rate to deliver 1 milliunit/minute
10 international units	100 mL	100 milliunits/mL	0.6 mL/hour
10 international units	50 mL	200 milliunits/mL	0.3 mL/hour

COMPATIBILITY	
Fluids	Sodium chloride 0.9% ¹ , glucose in sodium chloride solutions ^{1,2} , Hartmann's ² , Ringer's ² , Plasma-Lyte 148 via Y-site ³ . Compatible with glucose 5% but not recommended as it increases the risk of water intoxication. ¹
Y-site	Heparin sodium ² , meropenem ² . More information is available. ⁴ Ask your pharmacy service for advice.

INCOMPATIBILITY Solutions that contain bisulfites and metabisulfites as preservatives.¹

SPECIAL NOTES Monitor fetal heart rate and maternal contractions during infusion.¹ Latex allergy may be an important predisposing risk factor for anaphylaxis following oxytocin administration.¹

REFERENCES

- Product information. Available from www.tga.gov.au. Accessed 02/08/2024.
- ASHP injectable drug information 2021. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2021.
- Medical Information. Plasma-Lyte 148 compatibility summary. Toongabbie, NSW: Baxter; March 2022.
- Oxytocin. In: IV Index [internet]. Trissel's 2 clinical pharmaceuticals database (parenteral compatibility). Ann Arbor, MI: Merative. Accessed 16/03/2023.