

Receiving intravenous furosemide in the community

Patient Information Leaflet

Introduction

Intravenous (IV) furosemide is in a group of medications called diuretics. Diuretics are used to help your body get rid of excess fluid which has built up because your heart is not pumping properly (heart failure). This may be making you breathless, and your ankles, legs, genital area and abdomen may be swollen.

You will already be taking a diuretic tablet, but this is not working well enough for you at the moment. We hope that having diuretics intravenously, straight into your blood stream, will work more effectively than a tablet and you will get rid of the excess fluid that has built up. This leaflet contains information about how you will receive this treatment and what to do if you have any problems.

Where will I receive my treatment?

You will receive this treatment in a community clinic, hospital day clinic, or your own home if you are housebound. As you get better, the place of your treatment may be changed. However, please be assured that the care you receive will be to the same expert level, wherever it is given.

What are the risks of intravenous furosemide?

A full list of the possible risks and side effects of the medication can be found in the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with it. The most common risks are:

- Dizziness when you stand up due to a drop in blood pressure (postural hypotension).
- Changes in the levels of electrolytes (salts such as sodium and potassium) in your blood.

Less common side effects include:

- Increased uric acid levels in your blood which could lead to gout.
- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus). This is reversible.
- Skin rash, itching and increased sensitivity to sunlight.
- Tummy trouble - nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, abdominal pain.
- Soreness, bruising and / or infection around the cannula.

If you have any of these symptoms, please tell your nurse.

If you do not have intravenous furosemide, or the treatment does not work effectively, you may need to be admitted to hospital. If your heart failure is very advanced, further hospital treatment may not be helpful and you may prefer to stay at home and have medicines to keep you comfortable and relieve your symptoms.

How will I have the treatment?

A community IV nurse will give you the furosemide treatment through a vascular access device called a cannula - a thin, plastic tube inserted through your skin into a vein in your arm or hand.

Furosemide will be given through the cannula as an infusion (drip). The IV nurse will stay with you whilst your infusion is in progress, this may take up to two hours. Once the infusion is finished, the drip tubing will be removed and the cannula will either be bandaged securely or removed.

What if I have problems with my cannula?

You can use your arm that has the cannula in normally, but please take care not to knock it. The cannula can come out of place and may bleed. If this happens, there is **no need to panic**. If you can, take the cannula out. Cover the area with a clean tissue or cotton wool and press hard. The bleeding will normally stop in a few minutes and you can apply a plaster. If the bleeding does not stop, keep applying pressure to your arm and lift your arm above your head and contact your nurse for advice.

You can have a bath or shower with the cannula in your arm, but please keep it dry.

Looking after yourself during the treatment

While you are having treatment, you will need to weigh yourself daily and monitor how much you drink and how much urine you pass. The treatment will make you pass more urine than usual, so make sure you wear loose clothing and have easy access to a toilet, commode or urinal.

You will also need to take more rest and be aware that your blood pressure may be lower. You may feel dizzy and be at risk of falling, so it may be helpful to have someone with you at home, especially for four hours after each infusion.

Please keep the nurse's equipment (drip stand, infusion pump, sharps box, notes, equipment and the medication) safe. Please keep everything out of the sight and reach of children.

If you suddenly become very unwell, such as unrelieved chest pain, increased shortness of breath, increased or irregular heartbeat (palpitations) or a change in your mental state (confusion), dial 999 for emergency services.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand, please contact:

Community Heart Failure team on:
01384 323753 (8am to 6pm, seven days a week)

Community IV team on:
01384 321241 or **07786 431186** (8am to 6pm, seven days a week)

Out of these hours, ring Russells Hall switchboard on
01384 456111 and ask for the out of hours district nurse.

Further support can be gained from NHS 111 or your GP.

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-information-leaflets/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email dgft.patient.information@nhs.net

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta brosură poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔