Generations+/Northern Manhattan

Harlem Pharmacy Newsletter

July 2011

Coming Soon Addition of Curosurf ® to the Harlem Drug Formulary

CUROSURF® (poractant alfa), an intratracheal suspension, is scheduled to be added to the Harlem Hospital Formulary late July. It is used to treat premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS). Patients with this condition are often infants with underdeveloped lungs such that they do not produce enough surfactant, a liquid which helps air sacs in the lung remain inflated. CUROSURF is a surfactant which reduces tension in the lungs so that the air sacs can expand and gases such as oxygen can be transported into the body system. CUROSURF is for intratracheal use (instillation into the windpipe) only.

Recommended Dose

The initial recommended dose of CUROSURF is 2.5 mL/kg. Patients can have up to two repeated doses of 1.25 mL/kg after the initial dose. These repeat doses should be administered, at 12-hour intervals, in infants who remain intubated and in whom RDS is considered responsible for their persisting or deteriorating respiratory status. The maximum recommended total dose (sum of the initial and up to two repeat doses) is 5 mL/kg.

CUROSURF has more medication in less volume as compared to other surfactants. It spreads fast and evenly throughout the lungs. This reduces complications such as airway obstruction and endotracheal tube blockage. Studies have shown that CUROSURF weans infants from supplemental oxygen quicker in the first 6 hours after administration and a significantly less amount of infants required repeated doses

Directions for use

CUROSURF is a creamy white suspension. Before use, it should be inspected for discoloration. CUROSURF should be warmed to room temperature and gently turned upside down to assure uniform distribution. Do not shake.

Storage

CUROSURF should be stored in the refrigerator at 2-8°C (36-46°F). Unopened vials can be stored at room temperature for 24 hours before administration. Do not warm to room temperature and refrigerate more than once.

Warnings

CUROSURF can rapidly affect oxygen levels in the body and lung compliance. Infants should be monitored with clinical and laboratory assessments.
If adverse reactions such as low blood pressure, slower heart rate and oxygen desaturation are seen, the medication should be discontinued immediately.

CUROSURF demonstrates a rapid onset of action, sustained results with fewer doses, and facilitates success with less invasive ventilation for fast RDS success. For more information visit: http://www.curosurf.com

Look A-like Sound A-like Medications

Curosurf ® (poractant alfa) is an Intratracheal Suspension available in a sterile, ready-to-use rubber-stoppered clear glass vials containing 1.5ml [120mg surfactant (extract)] or 3.0 ml [240mg surfactant (extract)] of suspension.

These vials are Look-Alike Sound Alike. They are basically identical and the only difference is the vial is the cap, one is green and the other is blue.

To prevent LASA errors institutions may want to select only one vial size instead of having both in order to eliminate issues with selecting the wrong vial.

TO PREVENT LOOK ALIKE, SOUND ALIKE MEDICATION ERRORS:

- *Separate locations of look alike medications·*
- *Use look alike sound alike (LASA) auxiliary stickers on bins containing the medication*
- *Train staff to recognize LASA errors*
- *For handwritten/oral prescriptions, do not make assumptions; call the prescriber to confirm medication.*
- *Medication Reconciliation: Check patient's profile & review medication list to prevent errors*

TPN SERVICES

AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

Recently, the Pharmacy Department announced that it will be providing Total Parenteral Nutrition ***(TPN)*** ***Services seven (7) days a week.*** This means that a new order for TPN can be placed daily including the weekends, provided that the prescriber sends the TPN form to pharmacy by 11-11:30am that day.

TPN provides patients who are unable to eat with nutrition such as protein, sugar, vitamins, minerals, and sometimes fat (lipids). TPN always goes into your vein (blood vessel) through an intravenous (IV) line. The most common reason to use TPN is because the gastrointestinal tract (GI) tract is not functional. In the case of a premature infant, this may be because it's not fully formed yet. For adults, it can also be the result of complications of disease or severe trauma (e.g. cancer patients, burn victims, and AIDS patients)

Editor: *Hinnah Farooqi Pharm.D*
Peer-reviewed: Dr. Haider Syed R.Ph., Umer Farooq Pharm.D, Advised By: S. Khan R.Ph

Contributions *by Brenda Cheung, Pharm.D Candidate, LECOM School of Pharmacy*
If you wish to contribute an article or commentary for Pharmacy Newsletter, contact H.Farooqi, Pharm.D. at hinnah.farooqi@nychhc.org no later than 15th of the month for the next issue.

Safety and Stability of Lipid Emulsions

Intralipid® is a fat emulsion used as a component of parenteral nutrition for patients who are unable to get nutrition via an oral diet. It is an emulsion of soy bean oil, egg phospholipids and glycerin. It is available in a 20% concentration from the Pharmacy.
Intralipid provides essential fatty acids, linoleic acid (LA), an omega-6 fatty acid, alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), an omega-3 fatty acid.

To ensure integrity of Intralipid® manufacturer's states *"the integrity indicator (Oxalert™) (see picture below) should be inspected before removing the overpouch. If the indicator is black, the overpouch is damaged and the product should be discarded"*

Oxalert™ integrity indicator is clear product is okay to use

Oxalert™ integrity indicator is black discard product

Asthma Awareness Health Fair

On Saturday, June 11, 2011 the Pharmacy Department and Touro College of Pharmacy students actively participated in the Asthma Awareness Health Fair held at Harlem Hospital Center. Under the guidance of Pharmacy Clinical Supervisor, Dr. Syed the students provided information and handouts regarding asthma medications and answered questions from the public.

Henry Le, Michelle Mizo, and Luong Tran
Pharm.D Candidates, Touro College of Pharmacy

In general, people were interested in learning about causes of asthma and how to decrease the number of attacks. One of most effective way to prevent and/or reduce asthma attacks is by taking medication(s) referred to as controller or maintenance inhalers/treatments as prescriber by your doctor. These medications can reduce inflammation and open airways to decrease symptoms of asthma (e.g. wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath).

Understanding the purpose of each medication in the treatment of asthma is very important because some medications are designed for treating sudden symptoms of asthma attack such as fast-acting bronchodilators like rescue inhalers: Albuterol (Proventil® HFA, Ventolin® HFA) and some for the long term control of asthma which include (e.g., Salmeterol (Serevent®) Formoterol (Foradil®) Combination medications: salmeterol and fluticasone (Advair®); formoterol and budesonide (Symbicort®). These contain both the long-acting beta agonist and an inhaled corticosteroid.
Taking a long-term beta agonist control medication during an acute asthma attack can actually lead to worsening of asthma. Therefore, it is very important to know your medications.

The pharmacy students also offered non-pharmacological advice on preventing asthma attacks, such as avoiding triggers like cigarette smoke, air pollution, pollen, dust mites, household mold, animal dander and pet allergens. They provided asthma journals to sufferers and their care givers so they could write down where, when and what worsened their asthma symptoms in order to avoid those triggers and modifying their environment to prevent future attacks. Students educated people that even small changes around their home such as having hypoallergenic bed sheets or HEPA filters to remove dust and mold in their living spaces can make a difference. Touro Pharmacy students expressed that the Asthma Fair "was an enjoyable experience to be a part of at Harlem Hospital and pleased to help increase public awareness on asthma".