

NALOXONE (NARCAN) INFUSION

Indication:

Naloxone is a competitive antagonist used in the treatment of opiate overdose
The half-life of naloxone is 30 minutes

Preparation

Draw up 10mg of narcan to a total volume of 50ml (add to 0.9% saline) in a syringe. (25 vials of 400 microg/ml ampules)

Concentration

This gives a concentration of 200micrograms per ml

Infusion Rate

Start infusion initial rate at 60% of the initial bolus dose

e.g if initially given 1.2mg narcan iv/im, start infusion at 720 microgram/hr i.e. 3.6ml/hr

Consider giving a further bolus of 50% of initial bolus at 15mins guided by respiratory rate/conscious level

Initial bolus dose giving response	Initial hourly rate of infusion	Volume per hour (of 200 microgram/ml solution)
400 micrograms	240 micrograms/hour	1.2 mL/hour
600 micrograms	360 micrograms/hour	1.8 mL/hour
800 micrograms	480 micrograms/hour	2.4 mL/hour
1000 micrograms	600 micrograms/hour	3.0 mL/hour
1200 micrograms	720 micrograms/hour	3.6 mL/hour
1400 micrograms	840 micrograms/hour	4.2 mL/hour
1600 micrograms	960 micrograms/hour	4.8 mL/hour
1800 micrograms	1080 micrograms/hour	5.4 mL/hour
2000 micrograms	1200 micrograms/hour	6.0 mL/hour

See overleaf for half-lives of commonly used opiates

Caution

Some opiates have long half-lives and the infusion may have to be given over a prolonged period

Drug	Half life
Methadone	25-52 hours
Tramadol	5-7 hours
Morphine	2-4 hours
Dihydrocodeine	4 hours
Codeine	3 hours
Heroin	15-30 minutes