

IRON SUCROSE PROTOCOL

Iron Sucrose (Venofer[®]) is a safe intravenous preparation of iron for those who need iron and do not respond or cannot take oral iron.

Side Effects

Iron sucrose has been rarely associated with anaphylaxis, which has made it preferred over older preparations for parenteral iron supplementation. Occasional patients (10%) may have a transient metallic taste in their mouth, nausea, muscle cramps and hot flashes.^{9,10} Additional patients (as many as 10-30%) will experience transient hypotension, dizziness, and feeling very tired. This appears to be more common with higher doses and more rapid administration.

Indications

Selected patients with the following:

1. Severe antepartum iron deficient anemia non-responsive (or intolerant) to oral iron replacement
2. Anemia in a high-risk setting requiring quick replacement of iron stores:
 - a) placenta previa/accreta
 - b) Jehovah's Witness or other decliners of blood transfusions
3. Severe anemia from obstetric hemorrhage
4. Post autologous donation with need for rapid replenishment

In indications 2-4, there is additional consideration for recombinant human erythropoietin (EPO) (300 u/kg SQ, once), which combined with iron sucrose gives the most rapid response.

Administration

Option 1:

300-500 mg Iron Sucrose in NS 250 mL administered over three (3) hours; may repeat as needed in 3-7 days to reach 1 gm. We have found the lower dose to be better tolerated in the second half of gestation.

Option 2:

200 mg in NS 100 mL administered over 20-30 minutes; may repeat every other day to reach target.

Fe need: see below.

Calculate Fe (Iron sucrose) need:

$$\text{Fe need} = \text{wt (kg)} \times 0.24 \times \Delta\text{Hgb (gm/L)} + 500 \text{ mg}$$

↑
= target - current

Example: 70 kg woman with Hgb of 7.0 gm/dL and a target of 11 gm/L

$$= 70 \text{ kg} \times 0.24 \times (\text{target: } 110 \text{ gm/L} - \text{actual: } 70 \text{ gm/L}) + 500 \text{ mg}$$

Remember: 7 gm/dL = 70 gm/L

Remember: Use **pre-pregnancy** weight (kg)

$$= 672 \text{ mg} + 500 \text{ mg} = 1172 \text{ mg} \quad (\text{This is usually rounded off to } 100 \text{ or } 200 \text{ mg increments})$$