Generic Name: deferoxamine

Brand Name: Desferal®

Medication Class: Chelating agents

FDA Approved Uses
- Acute iron intoxication: for adjunct treatment of acute iron intoxication.
- Chronic iron overload: for the treatment of chronic iron overload due to transfusion-dependent anemia.

Off-label uses
- In patients with chronic renal failure, deferoxamine has been used in the treatment of aluminum overload, commonly related to the use of aluminum-contaminated dialysate or ingestion of aluminum-containing phosphorous-binding drugs.

Criteria for use
- Diagnosis of chronic iron overload due to blood transfusions or acute iron intoxication
- Age 3 and older
- Serum ferritin >1,000 mcg/L

Not Approved For
- Children less than 3 years of age
- Any indication not mentioned above

Required Medical Information
- Current (≤ 30 days from request) laboratory results reflecting serum hemoglobin, ferritin, TIBC, renal function, liver function, and platelets

Contraindications
- Known hypersensitivity to deferoxamine or any component of deferoxamine
- Severe renal disease or anuria

Dosing
- Acute iron intoxication:
  - Adults and Children (3 years and older):
    - Initial dosage: 1 gm intramuscular (IM), then 500 mg IM every 4 hours for 2 doses
    - Maintenance dosage: 500 mg IM every 4 to 12 hours based on clinical response
- Chronic iron overload:
  - Adults and Children (3 years and older):
    - Intramuscular
      - Usual dosage: 500 mg to 1 gm daily
      - Maximum dosage: 1gm daily
    - Intravenous
      - Usual dosage: 40 to 50 mg/kg/day IV over 8 to 12 hours for 5 to 7 days per week. Infusion rate should not exceed 15 mg/kg/hr.
      - Alternative: administered prior to or following same-day blood transfusion (1 gm over 4 hrs on the day of transfusion)
Subcutaneous:
- 1 to 2 gm/day (20 to 40 mg/kg/day) subcutaneously over 8 to 24 hours, utilizing a portable infusion pump

Authorization
- 1 year

Approved by P&T: 3/19/2013

References


89. Boxed Warning about deferasirox posted on the FDA website: www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm200850.h