1-800-862-2731

Administration of Meropenem 500 mg

Drug Name: Meropenem 500 mg

Dosage: 500 milligrams every _____ hours over 5 minutes

Key Points:

1. Always wash your hands with an antibacterial soap for 15 seconds or use an antiseptic hand gel before any procedure. Do not touch anything dirty, such as your clothes, glasses or skin after washing your hands. If you do, rewash them.

2. Always check the label for your name, correct drug name, correct dose and how frequently the drug should be given. If the information does not match, contact HomeMed immediately.

3. Check the syringes for leaks, expiration dates, color changes and floating materials. If these occur, set aside and use another. Notify HomeMed.

4. Work at a comfortable pace. The risk of contamination increases if you rush.

Supplies:
(1) Vial Meropenem 500mg
(1) Vial sterile water
(2) 20 mL syringe
(2) Sharp needles
(2) Prefilled Saline flush syringes (remove from package)
(1) Prefilled heparin flush syringe (remove from package)
(2) Blunt needles
(4) Alcohol wipes
Household disinfectant or alcohol
Antibacterial soap
Paper towel

Procedure:

1. Place a trash can next to your work area.
2. Wash your hands by first wetting your hands and wrists under running water. Scrub vigorously with antibacterial soap for 15 seconds. Work lather between fingers, under nails, over the palms and back of hands. Rinse hands well by keeping your fingers pointing up towards the ceiling so that the dirty water runs toward your elbows. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel from tips of fingers down. Turn off the faucet with the paper towel.

3. Gather your supplies and place in a corner of your work area.

4. Place a clean paper towel on your work surface or clean it with a household cleaner. Let the area air dry.

5. Place the supplies on your clean work area.

**PREPARING YOUR HEPARIN LOCK & SALINE SYRINGES**

1. Hold the prefilled heparin syringe upward (figure 1).

2. **Do not remove the cap.** Press on the plunger (figure 1). **DO NOT** pull back on the plunger.

3. Remove the protective cap from the end of the prefilled heparin syringe (figure 2).

4. Attach a blunt needle to the syringe by:
   - Twisting the green cap off the blunt needle. Attach the needle to the syringe by turning the needle clockwise. Do not remove the gray cap that protects the blunt needle.

5. Hold the syringe with the needle pointing upward. If bubbles appear, gently tap the sides of the syringe. The bubbles will rise to the top of the syringe.

6. Push the plunger to remove all the air out of the syringe (figure 3).

7. Prepare your 2 saline syringes by repeating steps 1 through 6.
TO PREPARE MEROPENEM

1. Remove the flat disk cover from the top of the sterile water and Meropenem vials. Vigorously scrub the top of the vials with an alcohol wipe.

2. Open the needle package. Attach a sharp needle to the end of each of the 20 mL syringes. Make sure not to touch the end of the syringe or the opened end of the needle. Connect the needle to the syringe by turning the needle clockwise. Do not remove protective cap from needle.

3. Using one of the syringes. Draw the syringe plunger back to 10 mL.
4. Remove the needle cap and inject 10mL air into sterile water vial.
5. Withdraw 10 mL sterile water from vial.
6. Inject 10 mL sterile water into Meropenem vial.
7. Remove syringe from vial.
8. Gently agitate vial to thoroughly mix powder and sterile water. Inspect for any undissolved particles.

10. Draw syringe plunger back to 10 mL.
11. Vigorously scrub the top of Meropenem vial with an alcohol pad.
12. Remove the needle cap and inject air into vial of Meropenem vial.
13. Withdraw entire contents of Meropenem vial. Total dose is 500 milligrams in 10 mLs.
14. Remove sharp needle and replace with blunt needle.

STARTING YOUR MEDICATION

1. Unclamp your catheter.

2. Vigorously scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.

3. Remove the gray protective covering from the blunt needle of your saline syringe.

4. Insert the blunt needle of the saline syringe into the catheter cap and inject the saline solution with a pumping action. When you have completed the 5 mL saline flush, remove the needle and syringe from your catheter.

5. Vigorously scrub the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
6. Remove the protective covering from the blunt needle of your medication syringe.

7. Insert the medication syringe into the catheter cap.

8. Push on the syringe plunger and inject 2 mLs every 60 seconds.

**STOPPING YOUR MEDICATION**

1. After you have injected all your medication, remove the medication syringe.

2. **Vigorously** scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.

3. Insert the blunt needle of the saline syringe into the catheter cap and inject the saline solution with a pumping action. When you have completed the 5 mL saline flush, remove the needle and syringe from your catheter.

4. **Vigorously** scrub the end of the cap of your catheter with an alcohol wipe.

5. Remove the protective covering from the blunt needle of your heparin syringe.

6. Insert the blunt needle of the heparin flush syringe into the catheter cap and inject the heparin solution with a pumping action. When 0.5 mL remains in the syringe, gently push forward on the syringe plunger while clamping the catheter (“Pump-pump-push and clamp”).

7. Dispose of the used syringes in your sharps container.
FAST FACTS

Catheter flushing:
- Saline flush
- Meropenem
- Saline flush
- Heparin flush

Organize yourself!
- Wash your hands
- Prepare the Meropenem
- Attach blunt needles to heparin & medication syringes
- Flush catheter with saline
- Push medication: 2 mLs every 60 seconds
- Flush catheter with saline
- Flush catheter with heparin

Resource numbers:
- Call HomeMed if you have questions or if the instructions are unclear to you. Our 24 hour number is:
- 1-800-862-2731

If you wish to use an antiseptic hand lotion or gel:
- Do NOT use if your hands are visibly soiled or have body fluids (such as blood) on them
- Off-brand hand gels can be less expensive
- Always check the label for the gel or lotion to contain either ethyl alcohol (ethanol), normal propyl alcohol (n-propyl) or isopropyl alcohol in concentrations between 60-90%