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lopamiro

lopamidol

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The product lopamiro (lopamidol) was discovered and developed in the research laboratories of Bracco (Milan - Italy). Chemically the substance is: (S)-N,N'-bis [2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-ethyl]-2,4,6-triiodo-5-lactamido-isophthalamide.

Iopamiro is a x-ray contrast medium of the new generation of non ionic compounds, which are water soluble because the molecular structure incorporates hydrophilic groups. This new class of contrast media differs significantly from other compounds currently used in connection with radiological procedures, all of which are soluble only when the radiopaque molecule is ionised by forming a salt with sodium and/or meglumine.

While such products are remarkably well tolerated, their aqueous solutions show an inherently high osmolality and this is responsible for a number of side effects that may occur after administration. The discovery of non ionic contrast agents has afforded, along with a sizable reduction of general toxicity, a considerable improvement in local and tissue tolerability, even by the more delicate structures of the human body such as vascular endothelia and the central nervous system. The product is available as preconstituted solution in different concentrations, with the following physical properties:

Conce	entration	Viscosity mPa.s		Relative	Osmometric		
mg iodine/	g iopamidol/			density d ²⁰	Osmolality	Osmotic	рН
ml	100ml	20°C	37°C	20°C	(osmol.kg-1)	pressure (atm)	
300	61.2	8.8	4.7	1.33	0.616	15.7	7 ± 0.5
370	75.5	20.9	9.4	1.41	0.796	20.3	7 ± 0.5

The low osmotic pressure of solutions, the nonionic nature of the molecule and its inherently low chemotoxicity contribute to the exceptionally good local and systemic tolerability of lopamiro. The favourable results of extended biological and clinical investigations confirm the suitability of lopamiro as a contrast medium for intrathecal, intra-arterial and intravenous administration.

INDICATIONS

NEURORADIOLOGY: myeloradiculography, cisternography and ventriculography. ANGIOGRAPHY: cerebral arteriography, coronary arteriography, thoracic aortography, abdominal aortography, angiocardiography, selective visceral arteriography, peripheral arteriography, venography, digital subtraction angiography (DSA), DSA of cerebral

arteries, DSA of peripheral arteries, DSA of abdominal arteries. UROGRAPHY: intravenous urography.

CONTRAST ENHANCEMENT IN CT SCANNING, ARTHROGRAPHY, FISTULOGRAPHY.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

There are no definite or absolute contraindications to the use of lopamiro, with the possible exception of Waldenström's macroglobulinemia, multiple myeloma, and severe liver and

kidney diseases.

GENERAL WARNINGS AND SIDE EFFECTS

The use of organic iodine compounds may cause untoward side effects and manifestations of anaphylaxis.

The symptoms include nausea, vomiting, widespread erythema, generalized heat sensation, headache, coryza or laryngeal edema, fever, sweating, asthenia, dizziness, pallor, dyspnoea and moderate hypotension. Skin reactions may occur in the form of various types of rash or diffuse blister formation.

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs), such Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (Lyell's syndrome or TEN) and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), which can be life threatening, have been reported in patients administered lopamiro. At the time of initiation, patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for severe skin reactions. If signs and symptoms suggestive of these reactions appear, further use of lopamiro should be withheld. If the patient has developed a severe cutaneous adverse reaction with the use of lopamiro, lopamiro must not be re-administered in this patient at any time. More severe reactions involving the cardiovascular system such as peripheral vasodilation with pronounced hypotension, tachycardia, dysphoea, agitation, cyanosis and loss of consciousness, may require emergency treatment. For these reasons the use of organic iodine contrast media must be limited to cases for which the diagnostic procedure is definitely indicated, as suggested by the patient's clinical status with special attention to existing pathology of the cardiovascular, urinary or hepatobiliary system. In particular, contrast media designed for cardioangiographic procedures should be used in hospitals or clinics equipped and staffed for intensive care in emergencies. For other more common diagnostic procedures calling for the use of iodinized contrast media, the public or private institutions, where such procedures take place, should be supplied at all times with all equipment and drugs that experience has shown to be suitable in case of an accident: the Ambu balloon, oxygen bottles, antihistamines, vasopressor drugs, cortisones.

Never mix other drugs with contrast medium solutions. When examining small children or babies, do not limit fluid intake before administering a hypertonic contrast solution; also, correct any existing water and electrolyte imbalance. Pregnant women and patients with hyperthyroidism should receive iodinized contrast media only if the attending physician finds it absolutely necessary. In patients scheduled for thyroid examination with a radioactive iodine tracer, bear in mind that iodine uptake in the thyroid gland will be reduced for several days (sometimes up to 2 weeks) after dosing with an iodinized contrast medium that is eliminated through the kidneys.

Encephalopathy has been reported with the use of lopamidol. This may manifest with symptoms and signs of neurological dysfunction such as headache, visual disturbance, cortical blindness, confusion, seizures, loss of coordination, hemiparesis, aphasia, unconsciousness, coma and cerebral oedema within minutes to hours after administration and generally resolves within days. Factors which increase blood-brain barrier permeability will ease the transfer of contrast media to brain tissue and may lead to possible CNS reactions, for instance encephalopathy. If contrast encephalopathy is suspected, iopamidol should not be re-administered and appropriate medical management should be initiated.

Transient thyroid suppression or hypothyroidism has been observed in children after exposure to iodinated contrast media. Following a diagnostic procedure, this has been more frequently observed in neonates and premature infants and also following procedures associated with higher doses. Neonates may also be exposed via maternal exposure. In neonates, especially preterm infants, who have been exposed to iopamidol, either through the mother during pregnancy or in the neonatal period, it is recommended to monitor thyroid function. If hypothyroidism is detected, the need for treatment should be considered and thyroid function should be monitored until normalised.

During post-marketing surveillance, the following adverse events have been reported after intravascular administration of Iopamiro:

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: thrombocytopenia.

Immune system disorders: anaphylaxis, anaphylactoid reaction.

Nervous system disorders: coma, transient ischaemic attack, syncope, depressed level of consciousness or loss of consciousness, convulsion, hemiplegia, contrast induced encephalopathy.

Eye disorders: blindness transient, visual disturbance, conjunctivitis, photophobia.

Cardiac disorders: myocardial ischaemia or infarction, cardiac failure, cardio-respiratory arrest, tachycardia, Kounis syndrome.

Vascular disorders: circulatory collapse or shock.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: respiratory arrest, respiratory failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, respiratory distress, apnoea, laryngeal oedema, dyspnoea. Gastrointestinal disorders: salivary hypersecretion, salivary gland enlargement.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: face oedema, acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP).

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: musculoskeletal pain, muscular weakness.

General disorders and administration site conditions: rigors, pain, malaise.

Investigations: electrocardiogram change including ST segment depression.

Children: cases of transient neonatal hypothyroidism have been reported with lopamidol in very low birth weight infants.

NEURORADIOLOGY

	Concentro	ation (mg	iodine/	ml)	Rec	comme	nded do	sage (r	nl)
Myeloradiculography		300					5-15		
Cisternography and ventriculography		300					5-15		
Varnings and side effects in the event of CSF block cossible. The use of orga with a history of epilepsy. opamiro: in such cases, to procedure against pos anticonvulsant drugs mu hould a convulsive seiz odium phenobarbital inte	cade, removinic iodine con Also the presented the operator sible risk to ust continue ure develop	ontrast r sence of should the pc such tre during	nedia blood carefu itient. eatme the ex	may l in the lly ass Patie nt be camin	be cor e CSF c sess the ents re ofore a nation,	ntraind contrain e need ceivin nd aft admir	icated ndicate I for the g treat er the p	for pa s the u diagr tment proce	tients use of nostic with dure.







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heat in the face and neck; a few complain of headache. A fairly frequent cardiovascular reaction to dosing with lopamiro is bradycardia associated with systemic hypotension. The reaction is transient and requires no treatment. Severe neurological sequelae may arise as direct complications of pre-existing pathology in the individual patient. Such reactions are diverse and may include tonic/clonic convulsions, aphasia, fainting, transient narrowing of visual field, hemiparesis and coma. The risk associated with a particular investigation involved may be increased by conditions such as advanced arteriosclerosis, hypertension, heart failure, major systemic diseases and recent cerebral embolism or thrombosis.

In patients undergoing angiocardiographic procedures special attention should be paid to the status of the right heart and pulmonary circulation. Right heart insufficiency and pulmonary hypertension may precipitate bradycardia and systemic hypotension, when the organic iodine solution is injected. In paediatric roentgenology, one should proceed with great caution when injecting the contrast medium into the right heart chambers of cyanotic neonates with pulmonary hypertension and impaired cardiac function. In examinations of the aortic arch the tip of the catheter should be positioned carefully to avoid hypotension, bradycardia and CNS injury due to excess pressure transmitted from the injector pump to the brachiocephalic branches of the aorta.

Likewise, in abdominal aortography, excess pressure from the pump may cause renal infarction, spinal cord injury, retroperitoneal bleeding, intestinal infarction and necrosis. In peripheral arteriography lopamiro 370 may sometimes cause a painful reaction in the involved limb.

This is usually not the case with the less concentrated solution lopamiro 300.

A property of nonionic contrast media is the extremely low interference with normal physiological functions. As a consequence of this, nonionic contrast media have less anticoagulant activity in vitro than ionic media. Medical personnel performing vascular catheterisation procedures should be aware of this and pay meticulous attention to the angiographic technique and catheter flushing so as to minimize the risk of procedure-related thrombosis and embolism.

The side effects reported in post-marketing surveillance, in connection with angiography, are those described in the paragraph on general warnings and side effects.

UROGRAPHY

lopamiro 300 and 370 should be used; the dose recommended for this type of examination is 30 to 50 ml.

The less marked osmotic diuresis induced by the nonionic agent makes lopamiro 370 especially suitable for patients with mild or moderately severe renal insufficiency and for neonates. The new contrast medium affords diagnostically useful nephrography even in patients with major renal insufficiency.

Warnings and side effects

The side effects that may arise in connection with intravenous urography are those described in the paragraph on general warnings and side effects.

OTHER DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

	Concentration (mg iodine/ml)	Recommended dosage (ml)
Contrast enhancement in CT scanning	300-370	0.5 - 2.0/kg
Arthrography	300	depending on examination
Fistulography	300	depending on examination

For the enhancement of contrast in CT scans lopamiro may be injected intravenously as a bolus, as a drip infusion or by a combination of the two methods.

Warnings and side effects

The reactions reported in cases of arthrography and fistulography usually represent irritative manifestations superimposed on existing tissue inflammation.

The side effects reported in post-marketing surveillance, in connection with CT scanning, are those described in the paragraph on general warnings and side effects.

STORAGE CONDITION

Store below 25°C.

Keep lopamiro solutions away from strong light. Exceptionally, the event of crystallization of lopamiro solutions could occur. It has been shown that such a phenomenon is caused by a damaged or defective container and therefore the product should not be used in this case. The bottle, once opened, must be used immediately. Any residue of contrast medium must be discarded. Iopamiro, as other iodinated contrast media, can react with metallic surfaces containing copper (e.g. brass), therefore the use of equipment, in which the product comes into direct contact with such surfaces, should be avoided.

SHELF-LIFE

Do not use beyond the EXP date stated on the label

COMPOSITION

COMPOSITION					
lopamiro 300	Each bottle (50 ml) contains: 30.62 g of iopamidol.				
	Each bottle (100 ml) contains: 61.24 g of iopamidol.				
lopamiro 370	Each bottle (50 ml) contains: 37.76 g of iopamidol.				
	Each bottle (100 ml) contains: 75.53 g of iopamidol.				
	Each bottle (200 ml) contains: 151.06 g of iopamidol.				
HOW SUPPLIED					
lopamiro 300	Boxes of 1 bottle, 50 ml, Boxes of 1 bottle, 100 ml				
lopamiro 370	Boxes of 1 bottle, 50 ml, Boxes of 1 bottle, 100 ml, Boxes of 1 bottle, 200 ml				
Manufactured for Bracco Imaging s.p.a., Via Egidio Folli 50 - 20134 Milano, Italy					
by Patheon Ita	Ilia S.p.A., 2° Trav. SX Via Morolense 5 - 03013 Ferentino (FR), Italy				

