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| Dexamethasone |
| Preparations listed in the Drug tariff.**Hover the mouse over the £ sign for DT prices** | [**Part VIIIA (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIa) | **DT price** |
| Dexamethasone 500mcg, 2mg, 4mg, 8mg, 40mg tablets | [**£**](#_Dexamethasone) |
| Dexamethasone 2mg, 4mg, 8mg soluble tablets S/F | [**£**](#_Dexamethasone) |
| Dexamethasone 2mg/5ml (Dexsol), 10mg/5ml, 20mg/5ml oral solution S/F  | [**£**](#_Dexamethasone) |
| [**Part VIIIB (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIb) | **DT price** |
| None |  |
| Administration in swallowing difficulties |
| Dexamethasone soluble tablets: dissolve in a minimum volume of 50ml before taking1.Dexamethasone oral solution: see comments below regarding excipients.Dexamethasone tablets can be dispersed in 10ml water immediately prior to taking (unlicensed use)2, or crushed and mixed with a small amount of soft food such as yoghurt, honey or jam before swallowing, without chewing (unlicensed use.)3 |
| Administration in enteral feeding tube |
| Dexamethasone oral solution (Rosemont) can be administered via NG or PEG tube (silicone, polyurethane or PVC- details on dimension size are on the SPC)4,5:Flush the enteral tube with a minimum of 5ml water. Administer the dose. Flush using 5ml as a minimum flush volume. Please note that the oral syringe provided is not suitable for administration via NG or PEG tubes4,5. See comments below regarding excipients.ADVANZ Pharma and Martindale Pharma (Martapan) have no information on giving their oral solution via a feeding tube6,7. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals supplied details of an in-house study to assess dose recovery after using feeding tubes, however, they do not have instructions for administration of their soluble tablets via a feeding tube8.Dexamethasone tablets (unlicensed use)2:Stop the enteral feed and flush. Place tablet in barrel of syringe and disperse with 10ml of water. Flush the medicine down the tube. Draw another 10ml of water and flush the rinsing (any remaining medicine) down the tube. Flush with 10ml of water. |
| Comments |
| Check the individual SPCs as some oral solutions contain maltitol which is unsuitable for fructose intolerant patients, sorbitol which may cause diarrhoea if ingested in large amounts or propylene glycol which may cause alcohol like symptoms. |
| References1. Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) Glensoludex 2mg soluble tablets (Glenmark Pharmaceuticals) last updated 14/9/15 [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) date accessed 15 August 2019
2. White R and Bradnam V. Handbook of Drug Administration via enteral feeding tubes. 3rd edition, 2015. Pharmaceutical Press
3. Dexamethasone for croup. Medicines for Children. Last updated 22/8/2014, accessed 12/9/2019 <https://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/dexamethasone-croup-0>
4. SPC Dexamethasone 10mg/5ml oral solution (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals) last updated 20/3/18 [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) date accessed 12 December 2019
5. SPC Dexsol 2mg/5ml oral solution (Rosemont Pharmaceuticals) last updated 31/1/19 [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) date accessed 12 December 2019
6. Email on file: ADVANZ Pharma, Medical Information. Received 5/12/2019
7. Email on file: Martindale Pharma, Medical Information. Received 20/11/2019
8. Email on file: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. Global Customer Service. Received 19/12/2019
9. Drug Tariff August 2019 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff>
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| **Please note: full instructions should be provided to the person administering the medicine. This is guidance only and should not determine individualised care.** |
| Author: Vicki Kong, QIPP Programme Pharmacist, BHR CCGsApproved by BHR CCGs Area Prescribing sub-Committees: January 2020 |
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