

DRUG:	CASPOFUNGIN
PRESENTATION:	Vial: 50 mg
ACTION & INDICATION:	Caspofungin is an antifungal agent used in the treatment of susceptible organisms (including <i>Aspergillus</i> and <i>Candida</i>) in patients who are either refractory to or intolerant of other agents.
DOSE :	IV: 25 mg/m ² once daily If the calculation of the patient's body surface area is either not possible or unsuitable, the following dosage regimen has been published 1 – 2 mg/kg once daily Higher doses have been reported but should only be used after consultation with a Clinical Microbiologist or Infectious Diseases Physician.
PREPARATION:	IV: Use solution prepared by Pharmacy if available. Diluent: Water for Injections, or Sodium chloride 0.9% Intravenous: Add 10.5mL of diluent to a 50mg vial = 5.2mg/mL (must be further diluted) Further dilute this concentrated solution to 0.5mg/mL or weaker with sodium chloride 0.9%.
ADMINISTRATION:	For intravenous infusion. Infuse over 60 minutes. Caspofungin is incompatible with glucose.
ADVERSE EFFECTS :	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea. Tachycardia, hypotension, flushing. Hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia, elevated liver enzymes (AST, ALT and alkaline phosphatase). Rash, sweating, pruritis.
COMMENTS:	Monitor for histamine-related reactions during administration. The dose does not need adjustment in patients with renal impairment. Discard reconstituted vial immediately after use
REFERENCES:	BNF for Children 2010-11 Pediatric Dosage Handbook (17 th ed.) Neofax 2008 Filippi L, et al. Neonatal liver abscesses due to <i>Candida</i> infection effectively treated with caspofungin. <i>Acta Paediatrica</i> 2009; 98:901-9.
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