

GUIDANCE ON USE OF KETOROLAC

Drug details

- NSAID available for parenteral as well as oral use
- Onset of action 30 min
- Duration of action 4-6 hrs (longer in elderly and renal failure)
- Analgesic effect much greater than antipyretic and anti-inflammatory effect
- Advised only for short term use (less than 3 weeks)

Indications

- When a NSAID is required but other routes than injectable are not available – or the pain is not responding to maximal doses of other NSAIDS

Contraindications

- History of gastric ulceration/bleeds
- History of cerebrovascular bleeds
- Clotting disorder/on anticoagulation
- Asthma
- On lithium
- Use with caution in renal or hepatic impairment

Side effects

- Gastrointestinal bleeding, especially if given for more than 7 days

Administration

- 60mg over 24 hrs via syringe driver
- Do not increase dose if patient is <50kg or is over 65 years.
- Otherwise, increase if necessary in increments of 15mg/24hrs to 90mg/24hrs
- Co-prescribe lansoprazole 30mg od
- There is an oral preparation, but it may be safer to use a different NSAID if oral conversion becomes necessary, in view of the risk of gastrointestinal bleeding.

Syringe driver compatibility

- Ketorolac has a high risk of incompatibility
- Should be diluted in as high a volume of normal saline as possible
- Compatible with diamorphine and oxycodone.