

## What Else Can I Do to Help My Condition?

- Limit salt and water intake as recommended to prevent excessive retention of water
- Take other medications for heart failure as prescribed by your doctor

## How Do I Store Dobutamine Infusion?

- Dobutamine infusion bags are stable at room temperature for 3 – 4 days and at fridge temperature for 7 days.
- Store additional infusion bags in a refrigerator between 2 – 8°C. Do not freeze.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

## PHARMACY

### Drug Information



## **What is Dobutamine Infusion?**

- Dobutamine works by stimulating the  $\beta_1$  receptors in your heart. This increases the contraction strength and force of the heart, increasing the amount of blood the heart pumps out per minute
- Dobutamine infusion is used in patients with advanced heart failure who experience symptoms such as shortness of breath at rest and severe water retention
- In patients with heart failure, the heart cannot pump enough blood to the rest of the body, resulting in insufficient oxygen being delivered to support normal body functions
- Dobutamine helps to support the heart function, improves blood flow to various parts of the body and provides symptomatic relief

## **How is Dobutamine Administered ?**

- Usual rate of infusion is between 2 – 5 mcg/kg/min
- Infuse dobutamine solution as instructed and prescribed by your doctor

## **Can Dobutamine Be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?**

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including supplements, traditional or herbal remedies.

## **Delivery of Dobutamine Infusion bags**

- Home delivery of dobutamine infusion bags will be offered for patients at a charge.
- Home delivery is done weekly on Tuesday or Thursday between 7.00pm – 10.00pm
- Ensure that someone is at home to receive the dobutamine infusion bags. If the delivery fails, you or your next-of-kin will need to come down personally to the hospital to collect the infusion bags the next day or arrange for another delivery at a charge.
- Keep the dobutamine infusion bags stored in a refrigerator as soon as you receive them

- In the event that you wish to terminate dobutamine bags delivery, please inform your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician before 5.00pm one day before the delivery (i.e before 5.00pm on Monday if delivery is planned for Tuesday)
- In the event of last-minute cancellation and dobutamine bags have already been prepared, the full cost of the bags will be charged

## **What are the Important Side Effects of Dobutamine?**

<b>Side Effect</b>	<b>Management</b>
Increased heart rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor your heart rate regularly while on dobutamine infusion</li><li>• If you experience palpitations and worsening signs and symptoms of breathlessness, inform your healthcare professional</li></ul>
Low blood pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor your blood pressure regularly while on dobutamine infusion</li><li>• Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position to minimize dizziness</li><li>• Inform your healthcare professional if persistent giddiness occurs.</li></ul>
Decreased serum potassium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signs and symptoms of low potassium levels include: Dizziness, muscle weakness, muscle cramp or fast heartbeat</li><li>• Inform your healthcare professional if you experience signs and symptoms of low potassium</li></ul>
Abnormal heart rhythm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signs and symptoms of abnormal heart rhythm include: Irregular heartbeat, giddiness or fainting spells</li><li>• Seek medical attention if these occur</li></ul>
Reaction at site of infusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor daily for any localised redness, tenderness, swelling and itching at the site of infusion</li></ul>

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.