

Nicardipine (Cardene)

Indications: Acute hypertension resulting in medical emergencies such as subarachnoid hemorrhage, aortic dissection or other medical indication requiring acute blood pressure control. Nicardipine hydrochloride (Cardene® IV) is indicated for the short-term treatment of hypertension.

Contra-indications:

Allergy to Nicardipine (Cardene® IV). Nicardipine hydrochloride (Cardene® IV) is contraindicated in patients with advanced aortic stenosis because part of the effect of Cardene IV premixed injection is secondary to reduced afterload. Reduction of diastolic pressure in these patients may worsen rather than improve myocardial oxygen balance.

Administration:

Nicardipine (Cardene) 50 mg in 250 ml NS (0.2 mg/ml) starting at 5mg/hr (25 ml/hr) IV infusion. Titrate to effect by increasing the rate of administration by 2.5 mg/hr every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg/hr until desired blood pressure reduction is achieved.

MICU Directives:

1. Follow generalized protocol for MICU transports.
2. Increased by 2.5 mg/hr every 5 minutes (for rapid titration) to 15 minutes (for gradual titration) up to a maximum of 15.0 mg/hr, until desired blood pressure reduction is achieved.
3. Reduce infusion rate by 2.5 mg/hr every 5 minutes if blood pressure is reduced by more than 20 mmHg systolic below the target blood pressure until return of control to near target level is obtained.
4. Discontinue if patient develops hypersensitivity (rash) or hemodynamic instability.