

Desmopressin (DDAVP) for Treatment and Prevention of Bleeding

Desmopressin (DDAVP) is used to prevent or treat excess bleeding in people with bleeding disorders. DDAVP increases blood clotting by stimulating the release of factor VIII and von Willebrand factor from storage sites in the body. It is commonly used by people with mild von Willebrand disease, platelet function disorders and mild factor VIII deficiency (hemophilia A).

How DDAVP is Given

DDAVP can be given intravenously at a hospital or clinic. DDAVP can also be given in a nose spray but it is important to verify it is 1.5 mg/mL desmopressin acetate. There are generic forms of DDAVP nose spray for treating other conditions and they are not strong enough to treat clotting

When to Use DDAVP

Your providers will teach you how and when to use DDAVP. It is generally given 30 minutes-2 hours before a surgery or dental procedure. It should be given as soon as possible after a bleed or injury. DDAVP should only be given once every 24 hours. It should not be used for more than 3 days in a row. DDAVP must be used with caution in the very young, elderly, and people with brain injury or seizure disorder and those who have trouble with fluid imbalance.

Side Effects

More Common:

- Temporary facial redness
- Mild Headache
- Mild water retention

Less Common:

- Stuffy nose
- Sore Throat
- Mild belly cramping

- Low blood pressure
- Fast heart rate
- Seizures due to low blood sodium

When to Call

- If bleeding is not controlled after giving DDAVP
- If you do not urinate within 12 hours of taking DDAVP
- Any symptoms of concern, like dizziness, fainting, confusion, vision changes, headache not relieved with acetaminophen (Tylenol®), fever, chills, rash, seizure
- **Call 911 with signs of allergic reaction like wheezing or trouble breathing.**

Recommended Fluid Intake following DDAVP Administration

- DDAVP causes the body to retain water. Fluid restriction is recommended for 24 hours after each dose of DDAVP. This helps prevent rare but serious side effects like low blood sodium level and seizures.
- Drink only to satisfy thirst. It is ok to drink less than the recommended maximum amount.
- Minimize plain water intake
- Fluid intake includes milk on cereal, jello, popsicles, soup or broth.

| Weight in pounds (lbs) | Maximum 24-hour fluid intake | Number of 8-ounce glasses |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <22 | $\frac{3}{4}$ maintenance – use caution | |
| 22-34 | 24 oz | 3 |
| 35-45 | 32 oz | 4 |
| 46-67 | 40 oz | 5 |
| 68-110 | 48 oz | 6 |
| 111-160 | 56 oz | 7 |
| 161-200 | 64 oz | 8 |
| 201+ | 72 oz | 9 |

*Eight 8oz glasses is approximately 2 Liters

Instructions for use of desmopressin nasal spray:

- “Prime” the vial with ____ sprays before the first use. Prime with ____ spray after the first use if the vial has not been used in ____ days.

- Spray the desmopressin up the nostril and breathe in deeply.
- Keep a record of desmopressin use to share with your treatment center.

Dosage

- 1 spray (150 micrograms) if patient weighs < 50 kilograms (110 lbs)
- 2 sprays (300 micrograms) if patient weighs > 50 kilograms (110 lbs)

Storage

Store bottle upright and follow manufacturer recommendations.

Who to Call

UW Health Comprehensive Program for Bleeding Disorders
(608) 890-9493.

After hours contact the pediatric or adult hematologist on call at **(608) 262-0486.**

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 12/2022. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing HF#6335