Docavarico®

Polidocanol 10mg/2ml 20mg/2ml

Solution for IV injection

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Docavarico® (polidocanol) is indicated to sclerose uncomplicated spider veins (varicose veins ≤1 mm in diameter) and uncomplicated reticular veins (varicose veins 1 to 3 mm in diameter) in the lower extremity. **Docavarico®** has not been studied in varicose veins more than 3 mm in diameter.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For intravenous use only. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. Do not use if particulate matter is seen or if the contents of the vial are discolored or if the vial is damaged in any way.

For spider veins (varicose veins ≤1 mm in diameter), use **Docavarico®** 0.5%. For reticular veins (varicose veins 1 to 3 mm in diameter), use **Docavarico®** 1%. Use 0.1 to 0.3 mL per injection and no more than 10 mL per session. Use a syringe (glass or plastic) with a fine needle (typically, 26- or 30-gauge). Insert the needle tangentially into the vein and inject the solution slowly while the needle is still in the vein. Apply only gentle pressure during injection to prevent vein rupture. After the needle has been removed and the injection site has been covered, apply compression in the form of a stocking or bandage. After the treatment session, encourage the patient to walk for 15 to 20 minutes. Keep the patient under observation to detect any anaphylactic or allergic reaction (see Warnings and Precautions [5]). Maintain compression for 2 to 3 days after treatment of spider veins and for 5 to 7 days for reticular veins. For extensive varicosities, longer compression treatment with compression bandages or a gradient compression stocking of a higher compression class is recommended. Post-treatment compression is necessary to reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis.

Repeat treatments may be necessary if the extent of the varicose veins requires more than 10 mL. These treatments should be separated by 1 to 2 weeks. Small intravaricose blood clots (thrombi) that develop may be removed by stab incision and thrombus expression (microthrombectomy).

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Docavarico® is available as a 0.5% and 1% solution in 2 mL glass ampules.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Docavarico® is contraindicated for patients with known allergy (anaphylaxis) to polidocanol and patients with acute thromboembolic diseases.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Anaphylaxis

Severe allergic reactions have been reported following polidocanol use, including anaphylactic reactions, some of them fatal. Severe reactions are more frequent with us e of larger volumes (> 3 mL). The dose of polidocanol should therefore be minimized. Be prepared to treat anaphylaxis appropriately.

Severe adverse local effects, including tissue necrosis, may occur following extravasation; therefore, care should be taken in intravenous needle placement and the smallest effective volume at each injection site should be used.

After the injection session is completed, apply compression with a stocking or bandage, and have the patient walk for 15-20 minutes. Keep the patient under supervision during this period to treat any anaphylactic or allergic reaction *(see Dosage and Administration [2])*.

5.2 Venous Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism

Docavarico® can cause venous thrombosis and subsequent pulmonary embolism or other thrombotic events.

Follow administration instructions closely and monitor for signs of venous thrombosis after treatment.

Patients with reduced mobility, history of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, or recent (within 3 months) major surgery, prolonged hospitalization or pregnancy are at increased risk for developing thrombosis.

5.3 Arterial Embolism

Stroke, transient ischemic attack, myocardial infarction, and impaired cardiac function have been reported in close temporal relationship with polidocanol administration. These events may be caused by air embolism when using the product foamed with room air (high nitrogen concentration) or thromboembolism. The safety and efficacy of polidocanol foamed with room air has not been established and its use should be avoided.

5.4 Tissue Ischemia and Necrosis

Intra-arterial injection or extravasation of polidocanol can cause severe necrosis, ischemia or gangrene.

Care should be taken in intravenous needle placement and the smallest effective volume at each injection site should be used. After the injection session is completed, apply compression with a stocking or bandage and have patients walk for 15-20 minutes. If intra-arterial injection of polidocanol occurs, consult a vascular surgeon immediately.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

Post-marketing Safety Experience

The following adverse reactions have been reported during use of polidocanol in world-wide experience; in some of these cases these adverse events have been serious or troublesome. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size and without a control group, it is not possible to estimate their frequency reliably or to establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Immune system disorders: Anaphylactic shock, angioedema, urticaria generalized, asthma.

Nervous system disorders: Cerebrovascular accident, migraine, paresthesia (local), loss of consciousness, confusional state, dizziness.

Cardiac disorders: Cardiac arrest, palpitations.

Vascular disorders: Deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, syncope vasovagal, circulatory collapse, vasculitis.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Dyspnea.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Skin hyperpigmentation, dermatitis allergic, hypertrichosis (in the area of sclerotherapy).

General disorders and injection site conditions: Injection site necrosis, pyrexia, hot flush.

Injury, poisoning and procedural complications: Nerve injury.

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

No drug-drug interactions have been studied with **Docavarico®**.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C. Polidocanol has been shown to have an embryocidal effect in rabbits when given in doses approximately equal (on the basis of body surface area) to the human dose. This effect may have been secondary to maternal toxicity. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. **Docavarico®** should not be used during pregnancy.

Human Studies

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies on the use of **Docavarico®** in pregnant women.

8.2 Labor and Delivery

The effects of **Docavarico®** on labor and delivery in pregnant women are unknown.

8.3 Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether polidocanol is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, avoid administering to a nursing woman.

8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of **Docavarico®** in pediatric patients have not been established.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of **Docavarico®** did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects.

9 OVERDOSAGE

Overdose may result in a higher incidence of localized reactions such as necrosis.

10 DESCRIPTION

clear colorless solution

11 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

11.1 Mechanism of Action

The active ingredient of **Docavarico®** is polidocanol.

Polidocanol is a sclerosing agent that locally damages the endothelium of blood vessels. When injected intravenously, polidocanol induces endothelial damage. Platelets then aggregate at the site of damage and attach to the venous wall. Eventually, a dense network of platelets, cellular debris, and fibrin occludes the vessel. Finally, the occluded vein is replaced with connective fibrous tissue.

11.2 Pharmacodynamics

Polidocanol has a concentration- and volume-dependent damaging effect on the endothelium of blood vessels.

11.3 Pharmacokinetics

During the major effectiveness study (EASI-trial), scheduled blood samples were taken from a subgroup of 22 patients to measure plasma levels of polidocanol after Docavarico treatment of spider and reticular veins. Low systemic blood levels of polidocanol were seen in some patients.

The mean $t_{1/2}$ of polidocanol in 4 patients with evaluable data receiving 4.5 -18.0 mg was 1.5 h.

HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Store at temperature not exceeding 30°C.

Shelf life: two years.

Packing: Carton box contains 1,3,5 or 10 colourless transparent glass ampoules (type I) each containing 2 ml solution.

Keep all medicaments out of reach of children

Product of:
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