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Fluid replacement following high blood loss surgery

A WIDE MARGIN OF SAFETY

Hespan prescribing information:

Composition: Each 100ml contains: Hetastarch 6.0g Sodium chloride: BP 0.9g Water for injection BP: qs pH adjusted with Sodium Hydroxide.

Indications: 1. As a plasma volume expander in hypovolaemia 2. Leucapheresis 3. Extracorporeal circulation

Contraindications Warnings: There are no absolute contraindications to the use of Hespan. Use with caution in patients with established renal failure. Hespan can produce dilutional effects on fibrinogen and prothrombin activity. In large volumes, Hespan may alter the clotting mechanism and produce a transient prolongation of the clotting time. Use with caution in patients with severe bleeding disorders. Use with caution in patients vulnerable to vascular overloading. Caution should be observed before administering Hespan to patients with a history of liver disease in view of slightly raised indirect bilirubin levels observed on very rare occasions in volunteers. There is a low incidence of allergic reactions and the administration is not associated with raised plasma histamine levels. Mild per-orbital oedema, urticaria or wheezing have been reported and are readily controlled by discontinuation of the drug and, if necessary, administration of an antihistamine.

Dosage and Administration — Plasma volume expansion
Intravenous infusion only, in an initial volume approximately equal to half the estimated blood loss. In adults the amount usually administered is 500ml to 1000ml. Total dosage does not usually exceed 1500ml per day or 20ml per kg of bodyweight for a typical 70kg patient, however the limiting dose will depend on circulating volume and haematocrit. In acute haemorrhagic shock, an initial administration rate approximately 20ml/kg/hr may be recommended in burns or septic shock, it is usually administered at slower rates.

Leucapheresis: 250-700ml Hespan is typically added to the Y junction just above the bleed out in the ratio of 1 part citrated Hespan to at least 8 parts whole blood; ratios of 1:20 have been used. On rare occasions, 500ml Hespan has been infused into the donors 15-30 minutes before collection. Multiple leucapheresis procedures using Hespan of up to 2 per week or a total of 7-10 have been reported to be safe and effective. The safety of more frequent or a greater number of procedures has not yet been established.

Produce Licence Number: 4524/0022

Package Quantities: Hespan is supplied in 500ml flexible plastic bags. Basic price £16.72. For further information contact Du Pont (U.K.) Ltd, Pharmaceuticals, Wedgwood Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 4QN. Tel. (0438) 734549

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The long lasting colloid
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