



Note:

The artesunate bicarbonate compound must not be used if tiny particles form or the solution becomes cloudy. Volume of carrier solution (0.9 % NaCl or Ringer's solution): 500 ml

The infusion time should not exceed 60 minutes.

Please note that each infusion can lead to allergic reactions or even anaphylactic shock. For this reason, clemastine and/or dexamethasone i.v. must be kept available for emergencies.

Storage:

15-25 °C, do not chill.



Burg-Apotheke Königstein
Frankfurter Straße 7 · 61462 Königstein im Taunus
Tel.: +49 6174 9929-500 · Fax: +49 6174 9929-692
Email: therapiebestellung@apotheke-koenigstein.de

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PRODUCT INFORMATION



ARTESUNATE

Dry substance and solvent

Prescription status: pharmacy-only medicinal product.





Dear Therapist,

This medication is an extemporaneous medication. This means that it is individually produced. We are convinced that the information we are giving you now can provide useful guidance. Please read this product information carefully because it contains important information regarding the medication that you should be aware of during application.

Artesunate is an artemisinin derivative from the “annual mugwort” (*artemisia annua*). Its effect on cancer cells was, as so often happened in the history of pharmaceuticals, discovered by chance. During treatment of malaria with artesunate in patients who were also suffering from breast cancer at the same time, an improvement in the cancerous disease and even complete remission was observed in some of the patients during follow-up examinations.

The Chinese scientist Tu Youyou was awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Medicine for her research in the field.

Mechanism of action:

An infusion of iron must be administered directly prior to the artesunate infusion. Artesunate binds to iron in plasma, which in turn binds to the transferrin receptor (transport molecule). In contrast to normal cells, tumour cells exhibit particularly large numbers of transferrin receptors on their surface. The iron-artesunate complex can therefore infiltrate the tumour cell via this specific receptor. This causes cytotoxic, aggressive free O₂ radicals to develop in the tumour cell cytoplasm that irreparably destroy the tumour cell.

Artesunate is an active ingredient that only dissolves in alkaline solutions. For this purpose, the artesunate powder is mixed with the alkaline bicarbonate solution and should be allowed to rest for around 5 minutes.

The artesunate will then have combined with the bicarbonate in a clear solution and can be poured into the 0.9 % NaCl solution using a transfer set.

Ingredients:

1 inj. bottle with dry substance containing:

Artesunate, sterile, 100 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg

1 inj. bottle with solvent containing:

Sodium hydrogen carbonate 8.4 %, 10 ml

Application:

For the treatment of malaria and use in complementary tumour therapy.

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity to the active ingredient or one of the other components.

Interactions with other substances:

Artesunate may not be infused at the same time as Vitamin C. A period of one hour should be observed between the infusion of artesunate and the administration of other preparations in order to avoid interactions.

Side effects:

Nausea and dizziness have been observed in individual cases. Administering artesunate is straightforward and it is generally well tolerated. It can, however, result in a lower erythrocyte count. Regular, weekly complete blood count checks are therefore necessary.

Dosage:

100, 250 mg and 500 mg. When dosing according to body weight: 4 mg per kg. Infusion time is 60 minutes. A course of 15-20 infusions is recommended – ideally on a daily basis, but at least 3x weekly. A maximum daily dose of 500 mg should not be exceeded.

