Emergency injection kit using Solu-Cortef® ACT-O-VIAL™ (hydrocortisone for injection)

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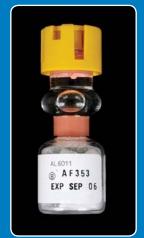
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What you need



- Hydrocortisone vial
- Alcohol swab
- 2 mL syringe
- Drawing-up and injection needles
- Cotton swab

Preparation



- Wash your hands before preparing the injection
- Read the label to ensure you have Solu-Cortef
- Check the expiry date

Precaution: Hydrocortisone ACT-O-VIALsTM contain benzyl alcohol which is contraindicated in premature infants. Therefore hydrocortisone vials without benzyl alcohol should be used. For further information, please refer to the Solu-Cortef® product information.





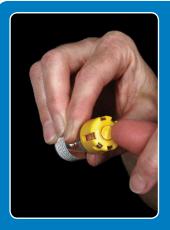


 Press firmly down on the yellow top to force the diluent into the lower chamber



- Gently mix the solution without shaking it
- Turn the vial upside down a number of times
- Do not shake the vial
- The solution is initially cloudy but then clears

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 Remove the plastic tab covering the rubber stopper



• Wipe the top of the vial with an alcohol swab

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To draw up the injection



 Connect the 2 mL syringe and the vial access cannula or drawing-up needle firmly together

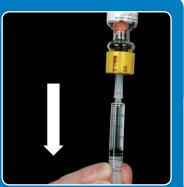




 Place the vial on a firm surface, and insert the access cannula/drawing-up needle through the rubber stopper

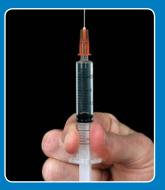






 With the access cannula/drawing-up needle in the vial, invert the bottle and withdraw the correct dose. If using a "drawing up needle", keep the needle tip below the fluid level





 Change to the injection needle. Use the needle size recommended by your clinic nurse. Flick out any air bubbles and expel any excess air



To give the injection





- Clean the skin surface with an alcohol swab
- Holding the syringe firmly, give the injection by quickly inserting the needle fully through the <u>skin surface</u> into the muscle layer
- Push the plunger until the dose is fully injected.
 This will only take about 10 seconds



- Remove the needle and place in a sharps container
- Press the cotton swab firmly over the site for a few seconds
- The injection will work quite quickly, but supervision is still required
- Reassure and take the patient to hospital for review as soon as possible





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Precaution: Patients should consult their medical practitioner about using this emergency treatment. Hydrocortisone containing Benzyl Alcohol (Act-O-Vials) is contraindicated in premature infants. For further information, please refer to the Solu-Cortef Consumer Medicine Information.

This instruction piece has been developed by Irene Mitchelhill, CNC in Paediatric Endocrinology at SCH. Photography by the Medical Illustration Unit, POWH. Proudly sponsored by Pfizer Australia.

