

URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID

Trade Name	Urosan [®] (ABM Pharma)
Class	Bile Acid
Mechanism of Action	<p>Ursodeoxycholic acid's mechanism of action in liver and cholestatic disorders has not yet been clearly explained.</p> <p>It alters bile acid composition, lowering concentrations of some of the more hydrophobic and potentially toxic bile acids.</p> <p>Ursodeoxycholic acid also has a choleric effect, promoting increased bile acid output and bile flow which results in decreased cholesterol content of bile and bile stones.</p> <p>In addition, there is some evidence for immunological effects, including a reduction of abnormal expression of HLA Class I antigens on hepatocytes and a suppression of immunoglobulin and cytokine production.</p>
Indications	Cholestasis associated with prolonged total parenteral nutrition.
Contraindications	<p>Allergy to ursodeoxycholic acid or other bile acids</p> <p>Presence of calcified (radio opaque) gall stones</p> <p>Complete biliary obstruction</p> <p>Non-functioning gall bladder</p>
Supplied As	Suspension prepared by pharmacy ursodeoxycholic acid 50mg/mL
Dilution	None required
Dosage	<p>10 – 15 mg/kg/dose and can be increased to 20mg/kg/dose</p> <p>Maximum dose recommended = 30mg/kg</p>
Interval	12 hourly
Administration	Oral
Compatible With	Do not mix with other medications prior to administration
Incompatible With	Bile acid sequestering agents (eg cholestyramine) may interfere with the action of ursodeoxycholic acid by reducing its absorption.
Monitoring	<p>Liver enzymes and serum bilirubin</p> <p>Observe stool colour</p>
Stability	30 days
Storage	Store in the fridge at 2- 8 °C
Adverse Reactions	Rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, tiredness, stomach pain, muscle pain, cough.
Metabolism	Half life approx 100 hours, eliminated in faeces via bile.

Comments	Shake well before use. Ursodeoxycholic acid is not registered for use in children and may require NPPA funding for supply on discharge.
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BNF for Children 20072. Lacy et al eds. Paediatric Dosage Handbook 1999/20003. www.medsafe.govt.nz/data_sheets/4. BMJ eds.The Northern Network Formulary 2000. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. www.anmfonline.org2. Neofax in www.micromedexsolutions.com
Updated By	A Lynn, B Robertshawe April 2008 A Lynn, B Robertshawe Dec 2012 (re-order profile), A Lynn, B Robertshawe June 2013 change concentration A Lynn, B Robertshawe March 2022 (routine update)