

Digoxin Immune Fab (DigiFab) is used to treat digoxin toxicity and other cardiac glycoside poisoning

Indications

Digoxin toxicity (acute and chronic)

- See digoxin guideline for indications

Other cardiac glycosides poisoning

- e.g., oleander, foxglove, cane toad

(Discuss with Clinical Toxicologist)

Contraindications:

- Known hypersensitivity

Adverse effects: (rare)

- mild urticarial rash and facial swelling
- flu-like illness
- with rapid reversal of digoxin effect:
 - exacerbation of congestive heart failure
 - rapid ventricular response in atrial fibrillation
 - hypokalaemia
- hypotension
- chest pain

Pregnancy: Safety not established, but administration should not be withheld if indicated

Presentation

- Digoxin specific antibody fragment - 40 mg / vial

Dose and Administration

- 40 mg of Digoxin specific antibody fragment binds ~0.5 mg of digoxin; variable binding to plant and animal cardiac glycosides
- Calculations to determine the dose are no longer recommended as they overestimate dose required.

- Dose depends on cardiovascular status of patient (cardiac arrest or non-arrest):

- **CARDIAC ARREST:** (Call clinical toxicologist AND treat as per ALS protocols)

Secondary to ACUTE digoxin overdose: 5 vials as IV push and repeat in 5-10 minutes

- If ROSC not achieved, discuss requirement for > 10 vials with clinical toxicologist

Secondary to CHRONIC digoxin accumulation (e.g., renal failure / dosing change):

- 2 vials as IV push every 5-10 minutes (discuss requirement for > 4 vials with clinical toxicologist)

- **NOT in CARDIAC ARREST**

- 1-2 vials in 100 mL of N/Saline infused over 15 - 30 minutes. Repeat doses may be required.

(guided by ECG changes, haemodynamic state and K⁺ concentration - discuss with clinical toxicologist)

- Serum digoxin concentration may increase after administration of DigiFab and may not be interpretable
- Clinical response is usually evident within an hour post administration
- Monitor patient for at least 12 hours post administration of DigiFab.

Therapeutic Endpoint:

- Resolution of cardiotoxicity