



# Meronia®

meropenem



## ZERO TOLERANCE ANTIBIOTIC

Potent bactericidal action against a broad spectrum of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.

BROADEST SPECTRUM - LOW % OF RESISTANCE

SEVERE INFECTIONS  
NOSOCOMIAL  
INFECTIONS  
MULTI-RESISTANT  
GERMS



## Setting the standard

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# Meronia®

meropenem



Severe infections

Nosocomial infections

Mixed aerobic and anaerobic infections

## PRESENTATION

1 vial-ampoule contains 500 mg or 1 g of meropenem powder to reconstitute solution for IV bolus injection or infusion.

## INDICATIONS/POSSIBLE USES

Meronia® is indicated in adults and children for treatment of severe infections caused by one or more susceptible organisms:

- infections in the lower respiratory tract;
- urinary tract infections, including complicated infections;
- intra-abdominal infections;
- gynaecological infections, including postpartum infections;
- skin and soft tissue infections;
- bacterial meningitis in children (experiments in adults very limited);
- sepsis (bacterial septicaemia)
- suspected bacterial infection in neutropenic immunocompromised patients;
- mixed aerobic and anaerobic infections;
- acute infective exacerbations (bronchitis, pneumonia) in patients with cystic fibrosis;
- nosocomial infections.

## DOSAGE/METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

### Normal dose for adults

The dose for adults is between 1.5 g and 6 g per day, divided into 3 doses. Usually 500 mg or 1 g of Meronia® is given every 8 hours by intravenous infusion, based on the nature and severity of the disease, the known or expected sensitivity of the organism and the patient's general condition.

*Exceptions:* During febrile episodes in neutropenic patients, the dose should be 1 g of Meronia® every 8 hours.

The recommended dose for patients with meningitis is 2 g of Meronia® every 8 hours.

In patients with cystic fibrosis, the recommended dose is 2 g of Meronia® every 8 hours, for patients < 50 kg: 40 mg/kg of body weight.

In the treatment of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and/or *Acinetobacter* spp. infections with an unknown level of resistance, the recommended dosage is 1 g three times per day for adults and 40 mg/kg three times per day for children.

Meronia® is given as an intravenous bolus injection over 5 minutes or by intravenous infusion over 15 to 30 minutes.

Dose of Meronia® for patients with impaired renal function: if patients have a creatinine clearance less than 51 ml/min, the dosage should be reduced as follows:

- 26-50 (ml/min): 1 unit dose every 12 hours
- 10-25 (ml/min): 1/2 unit dose every 12 hours.
- < 10 (ml/min): 1/2 unit dose every 24 hours.

### Dose of Meronia® for children

The intravenous dose for infants older than 3 months and children up to 12 years is from 10 to 40 mg/kg of body weight every 8 hours based on the severity and type of infection, the nature of the known or suspected pathogens and the general condition of the child. For children who weigh over 50 kg, the adult dosage is used.

Meronia® is given as an intravenous bolus injection over 5 minutes or by intravenous infusion over 15 to 30 minutes.

### Exceptions:

During febrile episodes in neutropenic patients, the dose should be 20 mg/kg every 8 hours.

The recommended dose for patients with meningitis is 40 mg/kg every 8 hours.

In patients with cystic fibrosis, the recommended dose is 40 mg/kg of Meronia® every 8 hours (maximum dose: 2 g every 8 hours).

## CONTRA-INDICATIONS

Patients who are hypersensitive to Meropenem should not use this drug.

## WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS

Patients with known hypersensitivity to carbapenems, penicillin or other  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics could also have an hypersensitivity to Meropenem.

As with all antibiotics, an overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms could be observed, hence the need for regular monitoring in all patients. If diarrhoea appears during treatment, it is necessary to consider, from a diagnostic point of view, the possibility of pseudomembranous colitis, caused by antibiotics.

## INTERACTIONS

It is not recommended to take probenecid with Meropenem.

Meronia<sup>®</sup> is not recommended in stable patients taking valproic acid stable and should be avoided.

## PREGNANCY/BREASTFEEDING

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Therefore, the safety of Meronia<sup>®</sup> in human pregnancy has not been evaluated. Meropenem is detected in animal breast milk, however, it is not known whether it is excreted in human milk. Meropenem should not be used during pregnancy/breastfeeding unless, in the doctor's opinion, the potential benefits justify the potential risks to the foetus/baby.

## PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

ATC code: J01DH02

Meropenem is an antibiotic from the carbapenem class, and should be administered by injection; it is stable compared to human dihydropeptidase-I (DHP-I).

Meropenem inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis. The ease with which Meropenem penetrates cell walls, its stability with regards to most serine  $\beta$ -lactamases and its strong affinity for penicillin binding proteins (PBPs) result in a potent bactericidal action against a broad spectrum of gram-positive and gram-negative pathogenic aerobic and anaerobic bacteria.

## UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Meronia<sup>®</sup> can cause adverse events, although not everybody gets them. With Meronia<sup>®</sup> these may include:

- Common ( $\geq 1\%$  and  $< 10\%$ ): thrombocytopenia; headache; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain; increases in serum transaminases, alkaline phosphatase, lactic

dehydrogenase; rash; pruritus; inflammation, pain at the administration site.

- Uncommon ( $\geq 0.1\%$  and  $< 1\%$ ): eosinophilia, thrombocytopenia; increase in bilirubin.
- Rare ( $\geq 0.01\%$  and  $< 0.1\%$ ): convulsions have been observed in temporal association with the use of Meropenem, although a causal relationship has not been established.
- Unknown: leucopenia, neutropenia, agranulocytosis, hemolytic anemia; angioedema, anaphylaxis; paresthesia; pseudomembranous colitis; urticaria; erythema multiforme; Stevens-Johnson syndrome; toxic epidermal necrolysis; thrombophlebitis; oral and vaginal candidiasis.

If any of these undesired effects gets serious, or if you notice any other effects not listed in this leaflet, please contact your doctor as soon as possible.

## SPECIFIC REMARKS

Preparation of the intravenous solution

- Bolus injection: For bolus injection, add 10 ml of aqueous solute for injectable use for 500 mg of Meropenem; this dose corresponds to a final concentration of 50 mg/ml. Meronia<sup>®</sup> solutions (1-50 mg/ml) in an aqueous solute or saline solution are stable in glass ampoules, infusion vials and plastic bags for at least 8 hours at room temperature (15-25°C) and for 48 hours in the refrigerator (2-8°C).
- Intravenous infusion: Do not freeze the solutions. If possible, only use freshly prepared Meronia<sup>®</sup> solutions.

Reconstituted solutions are clear or a pale yellow colour. Stored in infusion bags, these solutions are stable for at least 2 hours at room temperature (15-25°C) and for 8 hours in a refrigerator (2-8°C).

## STORAGE

Store below 30°C, in the original package. Keep out of reach and sight of children. Do not use after the expiry date, stated on the packaging (Exp.). The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.