Desmopressin Acetate in the Treatment of Bleeding Disorders

Desmopressin acetate (DDAVP®, Stimate®) causes the release of factor VIII and von Willebrand factor from the cells lining the blood vessels into the blood stream. This prevents, or helps stop, bleeding. Desmopressin acetate is used to treat people with bleeding disorders such as von Willebrand’s disease or mild hemophilia A.

HOW TO GIVE:

- **Intravenous (IV) – DDAVP®** can be given into a vein as directed by your health care provider.

- **Intranasal – Stimate®** is given as a nose spray. Make sure the pharmacy gives you Stimate®, which has 1.5 mg/ml (or 3.75 mg per 2.5 ml bottle) of desmopressin in each bottle and 150 mcg per spray. Other brands of intranasal desmopressin have lower concentrations and are NOT useful in treating people with bleeding disorders.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Desmopressin acetate may not work or stop bleeding for all people. Your health care provider may recommend a Desmopressin acetate challenge test to see if the medicine works. This is done by giving a dose of the medicine and testing the blood at different times.

- Not all pharmacies stock Stimate®. It is important to check with your pharmacy to see if they have the correct medicine.

- Store all medicines in their original container and away from direct sunlight or heat. Both DDAVP® and Stimate® need to be stored in the refrigerator in order to remain stable until the expiration date. If left out at room temperature, DDAVP® is only stable for two weeks and Stimate® is stable for three weeks.

- After a dose of desmopressin acetate is given, fluids need to be restricted to thirst for about 24 hours. Your health care provider will give you more specific instructions. There are no restrictions for solid foods.

SIDE EFFECTS:

The following side effects are common – these do not need to be reported:

- Redness and warmth of the face
- Mild fluid retention
- Mild headache
The following side effects MUST be reported immediately – call your child’s hematology doctor or nurse if your child has:

- Increased heart rate
- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Chills
- Dizziness
- Vomiting or nausea

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Let your child’s doctor, pharmacist and other health care providers know if your child is taking other medications or is allergic to any medication.
- Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist if your child is taking vitamins, herbal products or nutritional supplements.
- Keep the medication in the original container and store it exactly as instructed.
- Keep this medication out of the reach of children.
- Call your child’s doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any over-the-counter medication.

**Call your child’s hematology nurse or doctor immediately at (816) 234-3265 (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or (816) 234-3000 (after hours, and on weekends or holidays), and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call" if:**

- Your child has any of the side effects listed above.
- You have questions or concerns regarding your child’s health or this medication.

**Call 911 or take your child to the nearest emergency room if your child has:**

- Difficulty breathing
- A seizure

**Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:**

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is accidentally taken.