

HEALTH INNOVATION SERIES

Evidence based recommendations to improve care delivery and outcomes

Preventing dangerous intraspinal injections

Intraspinal injections are a specialised method of administration and errors relating to this route may result in severe patient harm, for example with tranexamic acid or vinca alkaloids.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices has recently highlighted the issue of accidental tranexamic acid administration via intraspinal injection. Intraspinal injection of tranexamic acid results in severe patient harm with a mortality rate of 50%.

Intrathecal administration is contraindicated for the vinca alkaloids vinblastine, vincristine and vinorelbine. They are for intravenous use only and are fatal if given by other routes.

▼ Details for **vinCRISTine**

Details Order Comments

+ [Icons]

*Dose: [Field]

*Route of administration: [Dropdown]

- IV Continuous Infusion
- IV Intermittent Infusion

Screenshot: Restricted route options for vincristine

REFERENCES

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Disclaimer: These recommendations are based on issues identified during various programs of research undertaken by Macquarie University. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list and should be considered by individual care settings for appropriateness prior to implementation. A more detailed review of the issue and impact may also be warranted. The content of this document is intended for information purposes only.

SYSTEM OPTIMISATION TIP#1

Remove any intraspinal route options (e.g. intrathecal, epidural etc) for tranexamic acid.

SYSTEM OPTIMISATION TIP#2

Remove all route options apart from IV continuous infusion and IV intermittent infusion for vinca alkaloids.