

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Propofol 20 mg/mL emulsion for injection / infusion.

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 ml emulsion contains 20 mg propofol.

1 vial of 50 ml contains 1000 mg propofol.

Excipient with known effect:

1 ml emulsion contains 100 mg soya bean oil.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Emulsion for injection / infusion.

White or almost white, homogenous emulsion,

pH 6.0-8.5,

osmolality 270 – 330 mOsmol/kg.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Propofol 20 mg/mL is a short-acting intravenous general anaesthetic for:

- Induction and maintenance of general anaesthesia in adults and children >3 years.
- Sedation for diagnostic and surgical procedures, alone or in combination with local or regional anaesthesia in adults and children >3 years.
- Sedation of ventilated patients >16 years of age in the intensive care unit.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

For specific guidance relating to the administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL with a target controlled infusion (TCI) device, which incorporates ‘Diprifusor’ TCI Software, see Section 4.2.5. Such use is restricted to induction and maintenance of anaesthesia in adults. The ‘Diprifusor’ TCI system is not recommended for use in ICU sedation or in children.

Induction of General Anaesthesia

Adults

Propofol 20 mg/mL may be used to induce anaesthesia by infusion.

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by bolus injection is not recommended.

Propofol 20 mg/mL may be used to induce anaesthesia by infusion but only in those patients who will receive Propofol 20 mg/mL for maintenance of anaesthesia.

In unpremedicated and premedicated patients, it is recommended that Propofol 20 mg/mL should be titrated (approximately 2 ml [40 mg] every 10 seconds in an average healthy adult by infusion) against the response of the patient until the clinical signs show the onset of anaesthesia. Most adult patients aged less than 55 years are likely to require 1.5–2.5 mg/kg of Propofol 20 mg/mL. The total dose required can be reduced by lower rates of administration (1–2.5 ml/min [20–50 mg/min]). Over this age, the requirement will generally be less. In patients of ASA Grades 3 and 4, lower rates of administration should be used (approximately 1 ml [20 mg] every 10 seconds).

Elderly

In older people the dose requirement for induction of anaesthesia with Propofol 20 mg/mL is reduced. The reduction should take into account of the physical status and age of the patient. The reduced dose should be given at a slower rate and titrated against the response.

Paediatric population

Propofol 20 mg/mL is not recommended for induction of anaesthesia in children less than 3 years of age.

For induction of anaesthesia in children over 3 years of age, Propofol 20 mg/mL should be titrated slowly until clinical signs show the onset of anaesthesia. The dose should be adjusted according to age and/or body weight. Most patients over 8 years of age require approximately 2.5 mg/kg body weight of Propofol 2% for induction of anaesthesia. In younger children, dose requirements may be higher (2.5–4 mg/kg body weight).

For ASA 3 and 4 patients lower doses are recommended (see also Section 4.4).

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by a ‘Diprifusor’ TCI system is not recommended for induction of general anaesthesia in children.

Maintenance of General Anaesthesia

Anaesthesia can be maintained by administering Propofol 20 mg/mL by continuous infusion to prevent the clinical signs of light anaesthesia. Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by bolus injection is not recommended. Recovery from anaesthesia is typically rapid and it is therefore important to maintain Propofol 20 mg/mL administration until the end of the procedure.

Adults

The required rate of administration varies considerably between patients, but rates in the region of 4–12 mg/kg/h usually maintain satisfactory anaesthesia.

Elderly

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is used for maintenance of anaesthesia the rate of infusion or 'target concentration' should also be reduced. Patients of ASA grades 3 and 4 will require further reductions in dose and dose rate. Rapid bolus administration (single or repeated) should not be used in older people as this may lead to cardiorespiratory depression.

Paediatric population

Propofol 20 mg/mL is not recommended for maintenance of anaesthesia in children less than 3 years of age.

Anaesthesia can be maintained in children over 3 years of age by administering Propofol 20 mg/mL by infusion to maintain the depth of anaesthesia required. The required rate of administration varies considerably between patients but rates in the region of 9–15 mg/kg/h usually achieve satisfactory anaesthesia. In younger children, dose requirements may be higher.

For ASA 3 and 4 patients lower doses are recommended (see also Section 4.4).

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by a 'Diprifusor' TCI System is not recommended for maintenance of general anaesthesia in children.

Sedation During Intensive Care

Adults

For sedation during intensive care it is advised that Propofol 20 mg/mL should be administered by continuous infusion. The infusion rate should be determined by the desired depth of sedation. In most patients sufficient sedation can be obtained with a dosage of 0.3-4 mg/kg/h of Propofol 20 mg/mL (See 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use). Propofol 20 mg/mL is not indicated for sedation in intensive care of patients of 16 years of age or younger (see 4.3 Contraindications). Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by Diprifusor TCI system is not advised for sedation in the intensive care unit.

It is recommended that blood lipid levels be monitored should Propofol 20 mg/mL be administered to patients thought to be at particular risk of fat overload.

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL should be adjusted appropriately if the monitoring indicates that fat is being inadequately cleared from the body. If the patient is receiving other intravenous lipid concurrently, a reduction in quantity should be made in order to take account of the amount of lipid infused as part of the Propofol 20 mg/mL formulation: 1.0 ml of Propofol 20 mg/mL contains approximately 0.1 g of fat.

If the duration of sedation is in excess of 3 days, lipids should be monitored in all patients.

Older people

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is used for sedation of anaesthesia the rate of infusion should also be reduced. Patients of ASA grades 3 and 4 will require further reductions in dose and dose rate.

Rapid bolus administration (single or repeated) should not be used in older people as this may lead to cardiorespiratory depression.

Paediatric population

Propofol 20 mg/mL is contra-indicated for the sedation of ventilated children aged 16 years or younger receiving intensive care.

Sedation for Surgical and Diagnostic Procedures

Adults

To provide sedation for surgical and diagnostic procedures, rates of administration should be individualised and titrated to clinical response.

Most patients will require 0.5–1 mg/kg over 1–5 minutes for onset of sedation.

Maintenance of sedation may be accomplished by titrating Propofol 20 mg/mL infusion to the desired level of sedation - most patients will require 1.5–4.5 mg/kg/h. In addition to the infusion, bolus administration of 10–20 mg may be used if a rapid increase in the depth of sedation is required. In patients of ASA Grades 3 and 4 the rate of administration and dosage may need to be reduced.

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by a 'Diprifusor' TCI system is not recommended for sedation for surgical and diagnostic procedures.

Elderly

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is used for sedation the rate of infusion or 'target concentration' should also be reduced. Patients of ASA grades 3 and 4 will require further reductions in dose and dose rate. Rapid bolus administration (single or repeated) should not be used in older people as this may lead to cardiorespiratory depression.

Paediatric population

Propofol 20 mg/mL is not recommended for surgical and diagnostic procedures in children aged less than 3 years.

In children over 3 years of age, doses and administration rates should be adjusted according to the required depth of sedation and the clinical response. Most paediatric patients require 1–2 mg/kg body weight of Propofol 2% for onset of sedation.

Maintenance of sedation may be

accomplished by titrating Propofol 20 mg/mL infusion to the desired level of sedation. Most patients require 1.5–9 mg/kg/h Propofol 20 mg/mL.

In ASA 3 and 4 patients lower doses may be required.

Method of administration

Propofol 20 mg/mL has no analgesic properties and therefore supplementary analgesic agents are generally required in addition to Propofol.

Propofol has been used in association with spinal and epidural anaesthesia and with commonly used premedicants, neuromuscular blocking drugs, inhalational agents and analgesic agents; no pharmacological incompatibility has been encountered. Lower

doses of Propofol 20mg/mL may be required where general anaesthesia is used as an adjunct to regional anaesthetic techniques. Profound hypotension has been reported following anaesthetic induction with propofol in patients treated with rifampicin.

Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be diluted. Propofol 20 mg/mL can be used for infusion undiluted from glass containers, plastic syringes or Propofol 20 mg/mL pre-filled syringes.

When Propofol is used to maintain anaesthesia, it is recommended that equipment such as syringe pumps or volumetric infusion pumps should always be used to control infusion rates.

Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be mixed prior to administration with injections or infusion fluids however, Propofol 20 mg/mL may be co-administered via a Y-piece close to the injection site into infusions of the following:

- Glucose 5% Intravenous Infusion B.P.
- Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion B.P.
- Glucose 4% with Sodium Chloride 0.18% Intravenous Infusion B.P.

The glass pre-filled syringe (PFS) has a lower frictional resistance than plastic disposable syringes and operates more easily. Therefore, if Propofol is administered using a hand held pre-filled syringe, the line between the syringe and the patient must not be left open if unattended.

When the pre-filled syringe presentation is used in a syringe pump appropriate compatibility should be ensured. In particular, the pump should be designed to prevent syphoning and should have an occlusion alarm set no greater than 1000 mm Hg. If using a programmable or equivalent pump that offers options for use of different syringes then choose only the 'B-D' 50/60 ml 'PLASTIPAK' setting when using the Propofol 20 mg/mL pre-filled syringe.

Target Controlled Infusion - Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by a 'Diprifusor' TCI System in Adults

Administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by a 'Diprifusor' TCI system is restricted to induction and maintenance of general anaesthesia in adults. It is not recommended for use in ICU sedation or sedation for surgical and diagnostic procedures, or in children.

Propofol may be administered by TCI only with a 'Diprifusor' TCI system incorporating 'Diprifusor' TCI software.

Such systems will operate only on recognition of electronically tagged pre-filled syringes containing Propofol 20 mg/mL Injection. The 'Diprifusor' TCI system will automatically adjust the infusion rate for the concentration of Propofol recognised. Users must be familiar with the infusion pump users' manual, and with the administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL by TCI and with the correct use of the syringe identification system.

The Diprifusor allows the anaesthetist to achieve and control a desired speed of induction and depth of anaesthesia by setting and adjusting target (predicted) blood concentrations of propofol. An alternative effect-site mode of administration may be accessible on some Diprifusors, but its safety and efficacy have not yet been established.

The 'Diprifusor' TCI system assumes that the initial blood propofol concentration in the patient is zero. Therefore, in patients who have received prior propofol, there may be a need to select a lower initial target concentration when commencing 'Diprifusor' TCI. Similarly, the immediate recommencement of 'Diprifusor' TCI is not recommended if the pump has been switched off.

Guidance on propofol target concentrations is given below. In view of interpatient variability in propofol pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, in both premedicated and unpremedicated patients the target propofol concentration should be titrated against the response of the patient in order to achieve the depth of anaesthesia required.

Induction and Maintenance of General Anaesthesia

In adult patients under 55 years of age anaesthesia can usually be induced with target propofol concentrations in the region of 4–8 microgram/ml. An initial target of 4 microgram/ml is recommended in premedicated patients and in unpremedicated patients an initial target of 6 microgram/ml is advised. Induction time with these targets is generally within the range of 60–120 seconds. Higher targets will allow more rapid induction of anaesthesia but may be associated with more pronounced haemodynamic and respiratory depression.

A lower initial target concentration should be used in patients over the age of about 55 years and in patients of ASA grades 3 and 4. The target concentration can then be increased in steps of 0.5–1.0 microgram/ml at intervals of 1 minute to achieve a gradual induction of anaesthesia.

Supplementary analgesia will generally be required and the extent to which target concentrations for maintenance of anaesthesia can be reduced will be influenced by the amount of concomitant analgesia administered. Target propofol concentrations in the region of 3–6 microgram/ml usually maintain satisfactory anaesthesia.

The predicted propofol concentration on waking is generally in the region of 1.0–2.0 microgram/ml and will be influenced by the amount of analgesia given during maintenance.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

Propofol 20 mg/mL contains soya oil and should not be used in patients who are hypersensitive to peanut or soya.

Propofol 20 mg/mL must not be used in patients of 16 years of age or younger for sedation in intensive care (see section 4.4).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Propofol 20 mg/mL should be given by those trained in anaesthesia (or, where appropriate, doctors trained in the care of patients in Intensive Care).

Patients should be constantly monitored and facilities for maintenance of a patient airway, artificial ventilation and oxygen enrichment and other resuscitative facilities should be readily available at all times. Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be administered by the person conducting the diagnostic or surgical procedure.

Abuse of, and dependence on Propofol 20 mg/mL, predominantly by health care professionals, have

been reported. As with other general anaesthetics, the administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL without airway care may result in fatal respiratory complications.

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is administered for conscious sedation, for surgical and diagnostic procedures, patients should be continually monitored for early signs of hypotension, airway obstruction and oxygen desaturation.

During induction of anaesthesia, hypotension and transient apnoea may occur depending on the dose and use of premedicants and other agents.

Occasionally, hypotension may require use of intravenous fluids and reduction of the rate of administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL during the period of anaesthetic maintenance.

As with other sedative agents, when Propofol 20 mg/mL is used for sedation during operative procedures, involuntary patient movements may occur. During procedures requiring immobility these movements may be hazardous to the operative site.

An adequate period is needed prior to discharge of the patient to ensure full recovery after use of Propofol 20 mg/mL. Very rarely the use of Propofol 20 mg/mL may be associated with the development of a period of post-operative unconsciousness, which may be accompanied by an increase in muscle tone. This may or may not be preceded by a period of wakefulness. Although recovery is spontaneous, appropriate care of an unconscious patient should be administered.

Propofol 20 mg/mL induced impairment is not generally detectable beyond 12 hours. The effects of Propofol 20 mg/mL, the procedure, concomitant medications, the age and the condition of the patient should be considered when advising patients on:

- The advisability of being accompanied on leaving the place of administration
- The timing of recommencement of skilled or hazardous tasks such as driving
- The use of other agents that may sedate (Eg, benzodiazepines, opiates, alcohol.)

As with other intravenous anaesthetic agents, caution should be applied in patients, with cardiac, respiratory, renal or hepatic impairment or in hypovolaemic or debilitated patients.

Propofol 20 mg/mL clearance is blood flow dependent, therefore, concomitant medication that reduces cardiac output will also reduce Propofol 20 mg/mL clearance.

Propofol 20 mg/mL lacks vagolytic activity and has been associated with reports of bradycardia (occasionally profound) and also asystole. The intravenous administration of an anticholinergic agent before induction, or during maintenance of anaesthesia should be considered, especially in situations where vagal tone is likely to predominate or when Propofol 20 mg/mL is used in conjunction with other agents likely to cause a bradycardia.

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is administered to an epileptic patient, there may be a risk of convulsion.

Appropriate care should be applied in patients with disorders of fat metabolism and in other conditions where lipid emulsions must be used cautiously (see section 4.2).

Use is not recommended with electroconvulsive treatment.

As with other anaesthetics sexual disinhibition may occur during recovery.

The benefits and risks of the proposed procedure should be considered prior to proceeding with repeated or prolonged use (>3 hours) of propofol in young children (< 3 years) and in pregnant women as there have been reports of neurotoxicity in preclinical studies, see Section 5.3.

Paediatric population

The use of Propofol is not recommended in newborn infants as this patient population has not been fully investigated. Pharmacokinetic data (see section 5.2) indicate that clearance is considerably reduced in neonates and has a very high inter-individual variability. Relative overdose could occur on administering doses recommended for older children and result in severe cardiovascular depression.

Propofol 20 mg/mL is not recommended for use in children < 3 years of age due to difficulty in titrating small volumes.

Propofol must not be used in patients of 16 years of age or younger for sedation for intensive care as the safety and efficacy of propofol for sedation in this age group have not been demonstrated (see section 4.3).

Advisory statements concerning Intensive Care Unit management

Use of propofol emulsion infusions for ICU sedation has been associated with a constellation of metabolic derangements and organ system failures that may result in death. Reports have been received of combinations of the following: Metabolic acidosis, Rhabdomyolysis, Hyperkalaemia, Hepatomegaly, Renal failure, Hyperlipidaemia, Cardiac arrhythmia, Brugada-type ECG (elevated ST-segment and coved T-wave) and rapidly progressive Cardiac failure usually unresponsive to inotropic supportive treatment. Combinations of these events have been referred to as the Propofol Infusion Syndrome. These events were mostly seen in patients with serious head injuries and children with respiratory tract infections who received dosages in excess of those advised in adults for sedation in the intensive care unit.

The following appear to be the major risk factors for the development of these events: decreased oxygen delivery to tissues; serious neurological injury and/or sepsis; high dosages of one or more of the following pharmacological agents - vasoconstrictors, steroids, inotropes and/or Propofol 20 mg/mL (usually at dose rates greater than 4mg/kg/h for more than 48 hours).

Prescribers should be alert to these events in patients with the above risk factors and immediately discontinue propofol when the above signs develop. All sedative and therapeutic agents used in the intensive care unit (ICU), should be titrated to maintain optimal oxygen delivery and haemodynamic parameters. Patients with raised intracranial pressure (ICP) should be given appropriate treatment to support the cerebral perfusion pressure during these treatment modifications.

Treating physicians are reminded if possible not to exceed the dosage of 4 mg/kg/h.

Appropriate care should be applied in patients with disorders of fat metabolism and in other conditions where lipid emulsions must be used cautiously.

It is recommended that blood lipid levels should be monitored if propofol is administered to patients thought to be at particular risk of fat overload. Administration of propofol should be adjusted appropriately if the monitoring indicates that fat is being inadequately cleared from the body. If the patient is receiving other intravenous lipid concurrently, a reduction in quantity should be made in order to take account of the amount of lipid infused as part of the propofol formulation; 1.0 mL of Propofol contains approximately 0.1 g of fat.

Propofol 20 mg/mL contains 0.0018 mmol sodium per ml. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

Additional Precautions

Caution should be taken when treating patients with mitochondrial disease. These patients may be susceptible to exacerbations of their disorder when undergoing anaesthesia, surgery and ICU care. Maintenance of normothermia, provision of carbohydrates and good hydration are recommended for such patients. The early presentations of mitochondrial disease exacerbation and of the 'propofol infusion syndrome' may be similar.

Propofol contains no antimicrobial preservatives and supports growth of micro-organisms.

EDTA chelates metal ions, including zinc, and reduces microbial growth rates. The need for supplemental zinc should be considered during prolonged administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL, particularly in patients who are predisposed to zinc deficiency, such as those with burns, diarrhoea and/or major sepsis.

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is to be aspirated, it must be drawn aseptically into a sterile syringe or giving set immediately after opening the ampoule or breaking the vial seal. Administration must commence without delay. Asepsis must be maintained for both Propofol 20 mg/mL and infusion equipment throughout the infusion period. Any infusion fluids added to the Propofol 20 mg/mL line must be administered close to the cannula site. Propofol 2% must not be administered via a microbiological filter.

Propofol 20 mg/mL and any syringe containing Propofol 20 mg/mL are for single use in an individual patient. In accordance with established guidelines for other lipid emulsions, a single infusion of Propofol 20 mg/mL must not exceed 12 hours. At the end of the procedure or at 12 hours, whichever is the sooner, both the reservoir of Propofol 20 mg/mL and the infusion line must be discarded and replaced as appropriate.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Propofol 20 mg/mL has been used in association with spinal and epidural anaesthesia and with commonly used premedicants, neuromuscular blocking drugs, inhalational agents and analgesic agents; no pharmacological incompatibility has been encountered. Lower doses of Propofol 20 mg/mL may be required where general anaesthesia is used as an adjunct to regional anaesthetic techniques. Profound hypotension has been reported following anaesthetic with propofol in patients treated with rifampicin.

The concurrent administration of other CNS depressants such as pre-medication drugs, inhalation agents, analgesic agents may add to the sedative, anaesthetic and cardiorespiratory depressant effects of Propofol 2% (see Section 4.4).

A need for lower propofol doses has been observed in patients taking valproate. When used concomitantly, a dose reduction of propofol may be considered.

A need for lower propofol doses has been observed in patients taking midazolam. The coadministration of propofol with midazolam is likely to result in enhanced sedation and respiratory depression. When used concomitantly, a dose reduction of propofol should be considered.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Teratology studies in rats and rabbits showed no teratogenic effects.

The safety of Propofol 2% during pregnancy has not been established. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be given to pregnant women except when absolutely necessary. Propofol 20 mg/mL crosses the placenta and can cause neonatal depression. Propofol 20 mg/mL can, however, be used during an induced abortion.

Obstetrics

Propofol 20 mg/mL crosses the placenta and can cause neonatal depression. It should not be used for obstetric anaesthesia.

Breast-feeding

Studies of breastfeeding mothers showed that small quantities of Propofol 20 mg/mL are excreted in human milk. Women should therefore not breast-feed for 24 hours after administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL. Milk produced during this period should be discarded.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Propofol 20 mg/mL has moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. Patients should be advised that performance at skilled tasks, such as driving and operating machinery, may be impaired for some time after general anaesthesia.

Propofol 20 mg/mL induced impairment is not generally detectable beyond 12 hours (Section 4.4).

4.8 Undesirable effects

General

Induction and maintenance of anaesthesia or sedation is generally smooth with minimal evidence of excitation. The most commonly reported ADRs are pharmacologically predictable side effects of an anaesthetic/sedative agent, such as hypotension. The nature, severity and incidence of adverse events observed in patients receiving Propofol 20 mg/mL may be related to the condition of the recipients and the operative or therapeutic procedures being undertaken.

The following definitions of frequencies are used:

Very common ($\geq 1/10$), common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$), rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$), very rare ($< 1/10,000$) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Table of Adverse Drug Reactions

System Organ Class	Frequency	Undesirable effects
Immune system disorders	Very rare	Anaphylaxis - may include angioedema, bronchospasm, erythema and hypotension
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Metabolic acidosis ⁽⁵⁾ , hyperkalaemia ⁽⁵⁾ , hyperlipidaemia ⁽⁵⁾
Psychiatric disorders	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Euphoric mood. Drug abuse and drug dependence ⁽⁸⁾
Nervous system disorders	Common	Headache during recovery phase
	Rare	Epileptiform movements, including convulsions and opisthotonus during induction, maintenance and recovery
	Very rare	Postoperative unconsciousness
	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Involuntary movements
Cardiac disorders	Common	Bradycardia ⁽¹⁾
	Very rare	Pulmonary oedema
	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Cardiac arrhythmia ⁽⁵⁾ , cardiac failure ^{(5), (7)}
Vascular disorders	Common	Hypotension ⁽²⁾
	Uncommon	Thrombosis and phlebitis
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Common	Transient apnoea during induction
	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Respiratory depression (dose dependent)
Gastrointestinal disorders	Common	Nausea and vomiting during recovery phase
	Very rare	Pancreatitis
Hepatobiliary disorders	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Hepatomegaly ⁽⁵⁾
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Rhabdomyolysis ^{(3), (5)}
Renal and urinary disorders	Very rare	Discolouration of urine following prolonged administration
	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Renal failure ⁽⁵⁾
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Very rare	Sexual disinhibition
	Not known	Priapism
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Local pain on induction ⁽⁴⁾
	Very rare	Tissue necrosis ⁽¹⁰⁾ following accidental extravascular administration
	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Local pain, swelling, following accidental extravascular administration
Investigations	Not known ⁽⁹⁾	Brugada type ECG ^{(5), (6)}

Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	Very rare	Postoperative fever
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- (1) Serious bradycardias are rare. There have been isolated reports of progression to asystole.
- (2) Occasionally, hypotension may require use of intravenous fluids and reduction of the administration rate of Propofol.
- (3) Very rare reports of rhabdomyolysis have been received where propofol has been given at doses greater than 4 mg/kg/hr for ICU sedation.
- (4) May be minimised by using the larger veins of the forearm and antecubital fossa. With Propofol local pain can also be minimised by the co-administration of lidocaine.
- (5) Combinations of these events, reported as “Propofol infusion syndrome”, may be seen in seriously ill patients who often have multiple risk factors for the development of the events, see section 4.4
- (6) Brugada type ECG: elevated ST-segment and coved T-wave in ECG.
- (7) Rapidly progressive cardiac failure (in some cases with fatal outcome) in adults. The cardiac failure in such cases was usually unresponsive to inotropic supportive treatment.
- (8) Abuse of and dependence on propofol, predominantly by health care professionals.
- (9) Not known as it cannot be estimated from the available clinical trial data.
- (10) Necrosis has been reported where tissue viability has been impaired.

Dystonia/dyskinesia have been reported.

Local

The local pain which may occur during the induction phase can be minimised by the use of the larger veins of the forearm and antecubital fossa. Thrombosis and phlebitis are rare.

Accidental clinical extravasation and animal studies showed minimal tissue reaction. Intraarterial injection in animals did not induce local tissue effects.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme. Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

4.9 Overdose

Accidental overdosage is likely to cause cardiorespiratory depression. Respiratory depression should be treated by artificial ventilation with oxygen. Cardiovascular depression would require lowering of the patient's head and, if severe, use of plasma expanders and pressor agents.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Other general anaesthetics

ATC code: N01AX10

Mechanism of action

Propofol (2,6-diisopropylphenol) is a short-acting general anaesthetic agent with a rapid onset of action of approximately 30 seconds. Recovery from anaesthesia is usually rapid. The mechanism of action, like all general anaesthetics, is poorly understood. However, propofol is thought to produce its sedative/anaesthetic effects by the positive modulation of the inhibitory function of the neurotransmitter GABA through the ligand-gated GABAA receptors.

Pharmacodynamic effects

In general, falls in mean arterial blood pressure and slight changes in heart rate are observed when Propofol 20 mg/mL is administered for induction and maintenance of anaesthesia. However, the haemodynamic parameters normally remain relatively stable during maintenance and the incidence of untoward haemodynamic changes is low.

Although ventilatory depression can occur following administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL, any effects are qualitatively similar to those of other intravenous anaesthetic agents and are readily manageable in clinical practice.

Propofol 20 mg/mL reduces cerebral blood flow, intracranial pressure and cerebral metabolism. The reduction in intracranial pressure is greater in patients with an elevated baseline intracranial pressure.

Clinical efficacy and safety

Recovery from anaesthesia is usually rapid and clear headed with a low incidence of headache and post-operative nausea and vomiting.

In general, there is less post-operative nausea and vomiting following anaesthesia with Propofol 20 mg/mL than following anaesthesia with inhalational agents. There is evidence that this may be related to a reduced emetic potential of propofol.

Propofol 20 mg/mL, at the concentrations likely to occur clinically, does not inhibit the synthesis of adrenocortical hormones.

Paediatric population

Limited studies on the duration of propofol based anaesthesia in children indicate safety and efficacy is unchanged up to duration of 4 hours. Literature evidence of use in children documents use for prolonged procedures without changes in safety or efficacy.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

When Propofol 20 mg/mL is used to maintain anaesthesia, blood concentrations asymptotically approach the steady-state value for the given administration rate.

Distribution

Propofol is extensively distributed and rapidly cleared from the body (total body clearance 1.5–2 litres/minute).

Elimination

The decline in propofol concentrations following a bolus dose or following the termination of an infusion can be described by a three compartment open model with very rapid distribution (half-life 2–4 minutes), rapid elimination (half-life 30–60 minutes), and a slower final phase, representative of redistribution of propofol from poorly perfused tissue.

Clearance occurs by metabolic processes, mainly in the liver where it is blood flow dependent, to form inactive conjugates of propofol and its corresponding quinol, which are excreted in urine. After a single dose of 3 mg/kg intravenously, propofol clearance/kg body weight increased with age as follows: Median clearance was considerably lower in neonates <1 month old (n=25) (20 ml/kg/min) compared to older children (n= 36, age range 4 months–7 years).

Additionally inter-individual variability was considerable in neonates (range 3.7–78 ml/kg/min). Due to this limited trial data that indicates a large variability, no dose recommendations can be given for this age group.

Median propofol clearance in older aged children after a single 3 mg/kg bolus was 37.5 ml/min/kg (4–24 months) (n=8), 38.7 ml/min/kg (11–43 months) (n=6), 48 ml/min/kg (1–3 years)(n=12), 28.2 ml/min/kg (4–7 years)(n=10) as compared with 23.6 ml/min/kg in adults (n=6).

Linearity

The pharmacokinetics are linear over the recommended range of infusion rates of Propofol 20 mg/mL.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Published studies in animals (including primates) at doses resulting in light to moderate anaesthesia demonstrate that the use of anaesthetic agents during the period of rapid brain growth or synaptogenesis results in cell loss in the developing brain that can be associated with prolonged cognitive deficiencies.

Based on comparisons across species, the window of vulnerability to these changes is believed to correlate with exposures in the third trimester through the first several months of life, but may extend out to approximately 3 years of age in humans. In neonatal primates, exposure to 3 hours of an anaesthetic regimen that produced a light surgical plane of anaesthesia did not increase neuronal cell loss, however, treatment regimens of 5 hours or longer increased neuronal cell loss. The clinical significance of these nonclinical findings is not known and healthcare providers should balance the benefits of appropriate anaesthesia in young children less than 3 years of age and pregnant women who require procedures against the potential risks suggested by the preclinical data.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

soybean oil
egg phospholipids
glycerol
sodium hydroxide
disodium edetate
water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be mixed prior to administration with injections or infusion fluids.

However, Propofol 20 mg/mL may be co-administered via a Y-piece connector close to the injection site into infusions of the following:

- Glucose 50 mg/mL (5%) solution for Infusion;
- Sodium Chloride 9 mg/mL (0.9%) solution for Infusion;
- Glucose 40 mg/mL (4%) with Sodium Chloride 1.8 mg/mL (0.18%) solution for Infusion.

Co-administration of Propofol 20 mg/mL together with Lidocaine 1%, Lidocaine 0.5% is possible.

The neuromuscular blocking agents, atracurium and mivacurium should not be given through the same intravenous line as Propofol 20 mg/mL without prior flushing.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years.

After first opening and/or dilution: to be used immediately.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25 °C. Do not freeze.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Propofol 20 mg/mL emulsion for injection / infusion.

50 mL glass vials (type I) with a bromobutyl rubber stopper and aluminium seals. 1 or 10 vials in a carton pack.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

Containers should be shaken before use.

Any portion of the contents remaining after use should be discarded.

Propofol 20 mg/mL should not be mixed prior to administration with injections or infusion fluids however, Propofol 20 mg/mL may be co-administered via a Y-piece connector close to the injection site into infusions of the following:

- Glucose 5% Intravenous Infusion B.P.
- Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion B.P.
- Glucose 4% with Sodium Chloride 0.18% Intravenous Infusion B.P.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 41203/0019

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10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

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