Zidovudine Oral

Band Name	Retrovir, AZT
Drug Type	Antiviral
Indication	Perinatal transmission accounts for the majority of human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infections among children. There is evidence to suggest that the administration of Zidovudine to HIV positive women in pregnancy and labour and to the neonate following birth may significantly reduce the maternal-infant HIV transmission rate [see labour ward policy manual].
Action	Zidovudine reduces the risk of maternal-infant transmission by possibly reducing the maternal viral load and subsequent exposure of the fetus in utero, of the infant at delivery or both.
Presentation	Oral preparation: 10mg/ml syrup
Storage	
Dose	2 mg/Kg/dose
Interval (hr)	6
Dilution	nil
Administration	IG administration every 6 hours, commenced between 8-12 hours after birth and continued to 6 weeks of age.
Side Effects	Use with caution in the presence of renal or hepatic impairment; The neonate may have a low Hb at birth - in an otherwise well infant this does not usually require treatment; Monitor full blood count for anaemia or granulocytopoenia
Contraindications	
Other Considerations	Zidovudine solutions should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration if either is present the solution should be discarded.
References	Connor et al. Reduction of maternal-infant transmission of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 with zidovudine treatment. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 1994; **331(18):** 1173-1180. American Hospital Formulary Service [1995] AHFS Drug Information.

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