AMIODARONE (C)
(Revised: January 2010)

TYPE: Potent anti-arrhythmic agent [S4]

PRESENTATION: Ampoule 150 mg/3 ml

ACTIONS:
Complex electrophysiological & pharmacological profile:
1. Prolongs the action potential duration; increases the refractoriness of all cardiac tissue
2. Also blocks Na⁺ channels (Class I action)
3. Has some anti-adrenergic effects (Class II action)
   Ca²⁺ blockade (Class IV)
4. Prolongs QT interval – reflects global prolongation of repolarisation
5. When given IV, there is a significant effect on the AV node which causes a delay in nodal conduction
6. Also effective for accessory pathway conduction

USE:
Effective for both supraventricular & ventricular arrhythmias
ACTAS USE:
− to slow ventricular rate in AF and AFI
− to treat VT & VF

ADVERSE EFFECTS:
IV: can cause vasodilatation & negative inotropic effects; hypotension. (dose & rate dependent)
Occasionally may cause:
1. Bradycardia (especially in older pts)
2. Phlebitis
3. Hot flushes / sweating

CONTRA-INDICATIONS:
Known hypersensitivity
Cross sensitivity to Iodine

DOSE:
VF: Adult: 300 mg IV push dose (over 30 – 60 seconds)
   Paediatric: 5 mg/kg IV

VT, AF and AFI:
150 mg IV via Springfuser (over 10 minutes, approx. 7 mls)
Paediatric: 5 mg/kg IV
(VT - If extremely compromised, may be given over 5 mins by slow IV injection)
No repeat doses for either treatment regimen

SPECIAL NOTE:
Significant potential drug interactions:
The following may potentiate the actions of Amiodarone:
Digoxin; Phenytoin (Dilantin); β Blockers; Ca²⁺ Channel Blockers; & other anti-arrhythmics.