

Cardene (nicardipine)

Indication: Stroke patients refractory to labetalol

Standard Concentration: 0.1mg/ml

Stable for 24 hours at room temperature.

Dosing:

IV dosing as a substitute for PO therapy

20mg po q8 is equivalent to 0.5mg/hr

30mg po q8 is equivalent to 1.2mg/hr

40mg po q8 is equivalent to 2.2mg/hr

Patients who have never had Cardene PO

Initiate at 5mg/hr, may increase by 2.5mg/hr every 15 minutes up to a maximum of 15mg/hr. Once blood pressure goal has been reached, decrease dose to 3mg/hr.

If more rapid pressure reduction is required, rate increases may be done every 5 minutes instead of every 15 minutes.

Dosing Chart:

Dose: (mg/hr)	0.5	1.2	2.2	3	5	7.5	10	12.5	15
Rate: (ml/hr)	5	12	22	30	50	75	100	125	150

Adverse effects: Headache, N/V, Hypotension, Tachycardia

Drug interactions: Cardene may increase levels of medications metabolized by CYP3A4.

Contraindications: aortic stenosis, dihydropyridine hypotension, hypersensitivity (Norvasc, Plendil, Dynacirc, Sular, Procardia, and Cardene)

Nursing considerations: Monitor blood pressure and heart rate.