



The content of this leaflet was approved by the Ministry of Health in February 2008 and updated according to the guidelines of the Ministry of Health in July 2018

Septax 1 gram
Septax 2 gram

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Septax 1 gram
Septax 2 gram

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Septax 1 gram : Vials contain 1g ceftazidime (as pentahydrate) with sodium carbonate (118mg per gram of ceftazidime).

Septax 2 gram : Vials contain 2g ceftazidime (as pentahydrate) with sodium carbonate (118mg per gram of ceftazidime).

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Septax 1 gram - Powder for solution for injection or infusion

Septax 2 gram - Powder for solution for injection or infusion

CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Therapeutic indications

Septax is indicated for the treatment of the infections listed below in adults and children including neonates (from birth).

- Nosocomial pneumonia
- Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis
- Bacterial meningitis
- Chronic suppurative otitis media
- Malignant otitis externa
- Complicated urinary tract infections
- Complicated skin and soft tissue infections
- Complicated intra-abdominal infections
- Bone and joint infections
- Peritonitis associated with dialysis in patient on CAPD.

Treatment of patients with bacteraemia that occurs in association with, or is suspected to be associated with, any of the infections listed above. Ceftazidime may be used in the management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection.

Ceftazidime may be used in the peri-operative prophylaxis of urinary tract infections for patients undergoing transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP).

The selection of ceftazidime should take into account its antibacterial spectrum, which is mainly restricted to aerobic Gram negative bacteria (see sections 4.4. and 5.1.).

Ceftazidime should be co-administered with other antibacterial agents whenever the possible range of causive bacteria would not fall within its spectrum of activity.

Consideration should be given to official guidelines on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

4.2. Posology and method of administration

Posology

Table 1: Adults and children ≥ 40 kg

Intermittent Administration	
Infection	Dose to be administered
Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	100 to 150 mg/kg/day every 8 h, maximum 9 g per day ¹
Febrile neutropenia	2 g every 8 h
Nosocomial pneumonia	
Bacterial meningitis	
Bacteraemia*	1-2 g every 8 h
Bone and joint infections	
Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	
Complicated intra-abdominal infections	
Peritonitis associated with dialysis in patients on CAPD	
Complicated urinary tract infections	1-2 g every 8 h or 12 h
Per-operative prophylaxis for transurethral resection of prostate (TURP)	1 g at induction of anaesthesia, and a second dose at catheter removal
Chronic suppurative otitis media	1 g to 2 g every 8 h
Malignant otitis externa	

Continuous infusion	
Infection	Dose to be administered
Febrile neutropenia	Loading dose of 2 g followed by a continuous infusion of 4 to 6 g every 24 h ¹
Nosocomial pneumonia	
Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	
Bacterial meningitis	
Bacteraemia*	
Bone and joint infections	
Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	
Complicated intra-abdominal infections	
Peritonitis associated with dialysis in patients on CAPD	
Neonates and infants ≤ 2 months	

¹In adults with normal renal function 9 g/day has been used without adverse effects. *When associated with, or suspected to be associated with, any of the infections listed in 4.1.

Table 2: Children < 40 kg

Infants and toddlers >2 months and children <40 kg	Infection	Usual dose
Intermittent Administration		
	Complicated urinary tract infections	100-150 mg/kg/day in three divided doses, maximum 6 g/day
	Chronic suppurative otitis media	150 mg/kg/day in three divided doses, maximum 6 g/day
	Malignant otitis externa	
	Neutropenic children	
	Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	100-150 mg/kg/day in three divided doses, maximum 6 g/day
	Bacterial meningitis	
	Bacteraemia*	
	Bone and joint infections	100-150 mg/kg/day in three divided doses, maximum 6 g/day
	Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	
	Complicated intra-abdominal infections	
	Peritonitis associated with dialysis in patients on CAPD	

Continuous Infusion		
	Febrile neutropenia	Loading dose of 60-100 mg/kg followed by a continuous infusion 100-200 mg/kg/day, maximum 6 g/day
	Nosocomial pneumonia	
	Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	
	Bacterial meningitis	
	Bacteraemia*	
	Bone and joint infections	
	Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	
	Complicated intra- abdominal infections	
	Peritonitis associated with dialysis in patients with CAPD	
	Neonates and infants ≤ 2 months	

Intermittent Administration

	Most infections	25-60 mg/kg/day in two divided doses ¹
¹ In neonates and infants ≤ 2 months, the serum half life of ceftazidime can be three to four times that in adults. *Where associated with, or suspects to be associated with, any of the infections listed in section 4.1.		

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Septax administered as continuous infusion to neonates and infants ≤ 2 months has not been established.

Elderly

In view of the age related reduced clearance of ceftazidime in elderly patients, the daily dose should not normally exceed 3 g in those over 80 years of age.

Hepatic impairment

Available data do not indicate the need for dose adjustment in mild or moderate liver function impairment. There are no study data in patients with severe hepatic impairment (see also section 5.2.). Close clinical monitoring for safety and efficacy is advised.

Renal impairment

Ceftazidime is excreted unchanged by the kidneys. Therefore, in patients with impaired renal function, the dosage should be reduced (see also section 4.4.).

An initial loading dose of 1 g should be given. Maintenance doses should be based on creatinine clearance:

Table 3: Recommended maintenance doses of Septax in renal impairment – intermittent infusion

Adults and children ≥ 40 kg

Creatinine clearance ml/min	Approx. serum creatinine μmol/l (mg/dl)	Recommended unit dose of Septax (g)	Frequency of dosing (hourly)
50-31	150-200 (1.7-2.3)	1	12
30-16	200-350 (2.3-4.0)	1	24
15-6	350-500 (4.0-5.6)	0.5	24
<5	>500 (>5.6)	0.5	48

In patients with severe infections the unit dose should be increased by 50% or the dosing frequency increased. In children the creatinine clearance should be adjusted for body surface area or lean body mass.

Children < 40 kg

Creatinine clearance (ml/min)**	Approx. serum creatinine μmol/l (mg/dl)	Recommended individual dose mg/kg body weight	Frequency of dosing (hourly)
50-31	150-200 (1.7-2.3)	25	12
30-16	200-350 (2.3-4.0)	25	24
15-6	350-500 (4.0-5.6)	12.5	24
<5	>500 (>5.6)	12.5	48

*The serum creatinine values are guideline values that may not indicate exactly the same degree of reduction for all patients with reduced renal function.
** Estimated based on body surface area, or measured.

Close clinical monitoring for safety and efficacy is advised.

Table 4: Recommended maintenance doses of Septax in renal impairment – continuous infusion

Adults and children ≥ 40 kg

Creatinine clearance (ml/min)	Approx. Serum creatinine μmol/l (mg/dl)	Frequency of dosing (hourly)
50-31	150-200 (1.7-2.3)	Loading dose of 2 g followed by 1 g to 3 g /24 hours
30-16	200-350 (2.3-4.0)	Loading dose of 2 g followed by 1 g /24 hours
≤ 15	> 350 (>4.0)	Not evaluated

Caution is advised in dose selection. Close clinical monitoring for safety and efficacy is advised.

Children < 40 kg

The safety and effectiveness of Septax administered as continuous infusion in renally impaired children < 40 kg has not been established. Close clinical monitoring for safety and efficacy is advised.

Haemodialysis

If continuous infusion is used in children with renal impairment, the creatinine clearance should be adjusted for body surface area or lean body mass.

The dose depends on the severity, susceptibility, site and type of infection and on the age and renal function of the patient.

Septax 1 g should be administered by intravenous injection or infusion, or by deep intramuscular injection. Recommended intramuscular injection sites are the upper outer quadrant of the *gluteus maximus* or lateral part of the thigh. Septax solutions may be given directly into the vein or introduced into the tubing of a

Peritoneal dialysis

Ceftazidime may be used in peritoneal dialysis and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD).

In addition to intravenous use, ceftazidime can be incorporated into the dialysis fluid (usually 125 to 250 mg for 2 litres of dialysis solution).

For patients in renal failure on continuous arterio-venous haemodialysis or high-flux haemofiltration in intensive therapy units: 1 g daily either as a single dose or in divided doses. For low-flux haemofiltration, follow the dose recommended under renal impairment.

For patients on veno-venous haemofiltration and veno-venous haemodialysis, follow the dosage recommendations in the tables 5 & 6 below.

Table 5: Continuous veno-venous haemofiltration dose guidelines

Residual renal function (creatinine clearance ml/min)	Maintenance dose (mg) for an ultrafiltration rate (ml/min) of ¹ :			
	5	16.7	33.3	50
0	250	250	500	500
5	250	250	500	500
10	250	500	500	750
15	250	500	500	750
20	500	500	500	750

¹ Maintenance dose to be administered every 12 h.

Table 6: Continuous veno-venous haemodialysis dose guidelines

Residual renal function (creatinine clearance in ml/min)	Maintenance dose (mg) for a dialysate in flow rate of ¹ :					
	1.0 litre/h			2.0 litre/h		
	Ultrafiltration rate (litre/h)			Ultrafiltration rate (litre/h)		
0	0.5	1.0	2.0	0.5	1.0	2.0
5	500	500	500	500	500	750
10	500	500	750	500	750	1000
15	500	750	750	750	750	1000
20	750	750	1000	750	750	1000

¹Maintenance dose to be administered every 12 h.

Method of administration

The dose depends on the severity, susceptibility, site and type of infection and on the age and renal function of the patient.

Septax 1 g should be administered by intravenous injection or infusion, or by deep intramuscular injection. Recommended intramuscular injection sites are the upper outer quadrant of the *gluteus maximus* or lateral part of the thigh. Septax solutions may be given directly into the vein or introduced into the tubing of a

giving set if the patient is receiving parenteral fluids. The standard recommended route of administration is by intravenous intermittent injection or intravenous continuous infusion. Intramuscular administration should only be considered when the intravenous route is not possible or less appropriate for the patient.

Septax 2 g should be administered by intravenous injection or infusion. Septax solutions may be given directly into the vein or introduced into the tubing of a giving set if the patient is receiving parenteral fluids. The standard recommended route of administration is by intravenous intermittent injection or intravenous continuous infusion.

4.3. Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to ceftazidime, to any other cephalosporin or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

History of severe hypersensitivity (e.g. anaphylactic reaction) to any other type of beta-lactam antibacterial agent (penicillins, monobactams and carbapenems).

4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use

Hypersensitivity

As with all beta-lactam antibacterial agents, serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. In case of severe hypersensitivity reactions, treatment with ceftazidime must be discontinued immediately and adequate emergency measures must be initiated.

Before beginning treatment, it should be established whether the patient has a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to ceftazidime, to other cephalosporins or to any other type of beta-lactam agent. Caution should be used if ceftazidime is given to patients with a history of non-severe hypersensitivity to other beta-lactam agents.

Spectrum of activity

Ceftazidime has a limited spectrum of antibacterial activity. It is not suitable for use as a single agent for the treatment of some types of infections unless the pathogen is already documented and known to be susceptible or there is a very high suspicion that the most likely pathogen(s) would be suitable for treatment with ceftazidime. This particularly applies when considering the treatment of patients with bacteraemia and when treating bacterial meningitis, skin and soft tissue infections and bone and joint infections. In addition, ceftazidime is susceptible to hydrolysis by several of the extended spectrum beta lactamases (ESBLs). Therefore information on the prevalence of ESBL producing organisms should be taken into account when selecting ceftazidime for treatment.

Pseudomembranous colitis

Antibacterial agent-associated colitis and pseudo-membranous colitis have been reported with nearly all anti-bacterial agents, including ceftazidime, and may range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhoea during or subsequent to the administration of ceftazidime (see section 4.8.). Discontinuation of therapy with ceftazidime and the administration of specific treatment for *Clostridium difficile* should be considered. Medicinal products that inhibit peristalsis should not be given.

Renal function

Concurrent treatment with high doses of cephalosporins and nephrotoxic medicinal products such as aminoglycosides or potent diuretics (e.g. furosemide) may adversely affect renal function.

Ceftazidime is eliminated via the kidneys, therefore the dose should be reduced according to the degree of renal impairment. Patients with renal impairment should be closely monitored for both safety and efficacy. Neurological sequelae have occasionally been reported when the dose has not been reduced in patients with renal impairment (see section 4.2. and 4.8.).

Overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms

Prolonged use may result in the overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms (e.g. Enterococci, fungi) which may require interruption of treatment or other appropriate measures. Repeated evaluation of the patient's condition is essential.

Test and assay interactions

Ceftazidime does not interfere with enzyme-based tests for glycosuria, but slight interference (false-positive) may occur with copper reduction methods (Benedict's, Fehling's, Clinitest).

Ceftazidime does not interfere in the alkaline picrate assay for creatinine.

The development of a positive Coombs' test associated with the use of ceftazidime in about 5% of patients may interfere with the cross-matching of blood.

Sodium content

Important information about one of the ingredients of Septax :

1 g powder for solution for injection or infusion. Septax1 g contains 52 mg of sodium per vial.

2 g powder for solution for injection or infusion. Septax 2 g contains 104 mg of sodium per vial.

This should be considered for patients who are on a controlled sodium diet.

4.5. Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Interaction studies have only been conducted with a probenecid and furosemide.

Concurrent use of high doses with nephrotoxic medicinal products may adversely affect renal function (see section 4.4.).

Chloramphenicol is antagonistic *in vitro* with ceftazidime and other cephalosporins. The clinical relevance of this finding is unknown, but if concurrent administration of ceftazidime with chloramphenicol is proposed, the possibility of antagonism should be considered.

In common with other antibiotics, ceftazidime may affect the gut flora, leading to lower oestrogen reabsorption and reduced efficacy of combined oral contraceptives.

4.6. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are limited amounts of data from the use of ceftazidime in pregnant women. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal/fetal development, parturition or postnatal development (see section 5.3.). Septax should be prescribed to pregnant women only if the benefit outweighs the risk.

Breast-feeding

Ceftazidime is excreted in human milk in small quantities but at therapeutic doses of



ceftazidime no effects on the breast-fed infant are anticipated. Ceftazidime can be used during breast-feeding.

Fertility

No data are available.

4.7. Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, undesirable effects may occur (e.g. dizziness), which may influence the ability to drive and use machines (see section 4.8.).

4.8. Undesirable effects

The most common adverse reactions are eosinophilia, thrombocytosis, phlebitis or thrombophlebitis with intravenous administration, diarrhoea, transient increases in hepatic enzymes, maculopapular or utricular rash, pain and/or inflammation following intramuscular injection and positive Coomb's test.

Data from sponsored and unsponsored clinical trials have been used to determine the frequency of common and uncommon undesirable effects. The frequencies assigned to all other undesirable effects were mainly determined using post-marketing data and refer to a reporting rate rather than a true frequency. Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness. The following convention has been used for the classification of frequency:

Very common ≥1/10
Common ≥1/100 and <1/10
Uncommon ≥1/1,000 and <1/100
Rare ≥1/10,000 and <1/1000
Very rare <1/10,000
Unknown (cannot be estimated from the available data)

System Organ Class	Common	Uncommon	Very rare	Unknown
Infections and infestations		Candidiasis (including vaginitis and oral thrush)		
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders	Eosinophilia Thrombocytosis	Neutropenia Leucopenia Thrombocytopenia		Agranulocytosis Haemolytic anaemia Lymphocytosis
Immune system disorders				Anaphylaxis (including bronchospasm and/or hypotension) (see section 4.4)
Nervous system disorders		Headache Dizziness		Neurological sequelae Paraesthesia

Vascular disorders	Phlebitis or thrombophlebitis with intravenous administration			
Gastrointestinal disorders	Diarrhoea	Antibacterial agent-associated diarrhoea and colitis ² (see section 4.4) Abdominal pain Nausea Vomiting		Bad taste
Hepatobiliary disorders	Transient elevations in one or more hepatic enzymes ³			Jaundice
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Maculopapular or urticarial rash	Pruritus		Toxic epidermal necrolysis Stevens-Johnson syndrome Erythema multiforme Angioedema Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) ⁴
Renal and urinary disorders		Transient elevations of blood urea, blood urea nitrogen and/or serum creatinine	Interstitial nephritis Acute renal failure	
General disorders and administration site conditions	Pain and/or inflammation after intramuscular injection	Fever		
Investigations	Positive Coombs' test ⁵			

¹There have been reports of neurological sequelae including tremor, myoclonia, convulsions, encephalopathy and coma in patients with renal impairment in whom the dose of ceftazidime has not been appropriately reduced.
²Diarrhoea and colitis may be associated with *Clostridium difficile* and may present as pseudomembranous colitis.
³ALT (SGPT), AST (SOGT), LHD, GGT, alkaline phosphatase.

⁴There have been rare reports where DRESS has been associated with ceftazidime.
⁵A positive Coombs test develops in about 5% of patients and may interfere with blood cross matching.

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. Any suspected adverse events should be reported to the Ministry of Health according to the National Regulation by using an online form <https://forms.gov.il/globaldata/getsequence/getsequence.aspx?formType=AdversEffectMedic@moh.gov.il>

4.9. Overdose

Overdose can lead to neurological sequelae including encephalopathy, convulsions and coma.

Symptoms of overdose can occur if the dose is not reduced appropriately in patients with renal impairment (see sections 4.2. and 4.4.)

Serum levels of ceftazidime can be reduced by haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1. Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anti-bacterials for systemic use. Third-generation cephalosporins ATC code: J01DD02

Mechanism of action

Ceftazidime inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis following attachment to penicillin binding proteins (PBPs). This results in the interruption of cell wall (peptidoglycan) biosynthesis, which leads to bacterial cell lysis and death.

PK/PD relationship

For cephalosporins, the most important pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic index correlating with *in vivo* efficacy has been shown to be the percentage of the dosing interval that the unbound concentration remains above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of ceftazidime for individual target species (i.e. %T>MIC).

Mechanism of Resistance

Bacterial resistance to ceftazidime may be due to one or more of the following mechanisms:

- hydrolysis by beta-lactamases. Ceftazidime may be efficiently hydrolysed by extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), including the SHV family of ESBLs and AmpC enzymes that may be induced or stably derepressed in certain aerobic Gram-negative bacterial species
- reduced affinity of penicillin-binding proteins for ceftazidime
- outer membrane impermeability, which restricts access of ceftazidime to penicillin binding proteins in Gram-negative organisms
- bacterial efflux pumps.

Breakpoints

Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints established by the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) are as follows:

Organism	Breakpoints (mg/L)		
	S	I	R
Enterobacteriaceae	≤1	2-4	>4
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	≤8 ¹	-	>8
Non-species related breakpoints ²	≤4	8	>8

S=Susceptible, I=Intermediate, R=Resistant

¹The breakpoints relate to high dose therapy (2 g x 3).

²Non-species related breakpoints have been determined mainly on the basis of PK/PD data and are independent of MIC distributions of specific species. They are for use only for species not mentioned in the table or footnotes.

Microbiological Susceptibility

The prevalence of acquired resistance may vary geographically and with time for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections. As necessary, expert advice should be sought when the local prevalence of resistance is such that the utility of ceftazidime in at least some types of infections is questionable.

Commonly susceptible species

Gram-positive aerobes:
Streptococcus pyogenes
Streptococcus agalactiae

Gram-negative aerobes:
Citrobacter koseri
Haemophilus influenzae
Moraxella catarrhalis
Neisseria meningitidis
Pasteurella multocida
Proteus mirabilis
Proteus spp (other)
Providencia spp.

Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem

Gram-negative aerobes:
Acinetobacter baumannii[†]
Burkholderia cepacia
Citrobacter freundii
Enterobacter aerogenes
Enterobacter cloacae
Escherichia coli
Klebsiella pneumoniae
Klebsiella spp (other)
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Serratia spp
Morganella morganii

Gram-positive aerobes:
Staphylococcus aureus[‡]
Staphylococcus pneumoniae^{‡‡}
Viridans group streptococcus

Gram-positive anaerobes:
Clostridium perfringens
Peptostreptococcus spp.
Gram-negative anaerobes
Fusobacterium spp.

Inherently resistant organisms

Gram-positive aerobes:
Enterococcus spp including *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus faecium*
Listeria spp

Gram-positive anaerobes:
Clostridium difficile

Gram-negative anaerobes
Bacteroides spp. (many strains of *Bacteroides fragilis* are resistant).

Others:

Chlamydia spp
Mycoplasma spp
Legionella spp

[†]*S.aureus* that is methicillin susceptible are considered to have inherent low susceptibility to ceftazidime.All methicillin-resistance *S. Aureus* are resistant to ceftazidime.

^{‡‡}*S.pneumoniae* that demonstrate intermediate susceptibility or are resistant to penicillin can be expected to demonstrate at least reduced susceptibility to ceftazidime.

[†]High rates of resistance have been observed in one or more areas/countries/regions within the EU.

5.2. Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

After intramuscular administration of 500 mg and 1 g of ceftazidime, peak plasma levels of 18 and 37 mg/l respectively are achieved rapidly. Five minutes after intravenous bolus injection of 500 mg, 1 g or 2 g, plasma levels are 46, 87 and 170 mg/l, respectively. The kinetics of ceftazidime are linear within the single dose range of 0.5 to 2 g following intravenous or intramuscular dosing.

Distribution

The serum protein binding of ceftazidime is low at about 10%. Concentrations in excess of the MIC for common pathogens can be achieved in tissues such as bone, heart, bile, sputum, aqueous humour, synovial, pleural and peritoneal fluids.

Ceftazidime crosses the placenta readily, and is excreted in the breast milk. Penetration of the intact blood-brain barrier is poor, resulting in low levels of ceftazidime in the CSF in the absence of inflammation. However, concentrations of 4 to 20 mg/l or more are achieved in the CSF when the meninges are inflamed.

Biotransformation

Ceftazidime is not metabolized.

Elimination

After parenteral administration plasma levels decrease with a half-life of about 2 h. Ceftazidime is excreted unchanged into the urine by glomerular filtration; approximately 80 to 90 % of the dose is recovered in the urine within 24 h. Less than 1 % is excreted via the bile.

Special patient populations

Renal impairment

Elimination of ceftazidime is decreased in patients with impaired renal function and the dose should be reduced (see section 4.2.).

Hepatic impairment

The presence of mild to moderate hepatic dysfunction had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of ceftazidime in individuals administered 2 g intravenously every 8 hours for 5 days, provided renal function was not impaired (see section 4.2.).

Elderly

The reduced clearance observed in elderly patients was primarily due to age-related decrease in renal clearance of ceftazidime. The mean elimination half-life ranged from 3.5 to 4 hours following single or 7 days repeat BID dosing of 2 g IV bolus injections in elderly patients 80 years or older.

Paediatric population

The half-life of ceftazidime is prolonged in preterm and term neonates by 4.5 to 7.5 hours after doses of 25 to 30 mg/kg. However, by the age of 2 months the half-life is within the range for adults.

5.3. Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on studies of safety pharmacology, repeat dose toxicity, genotoxicity, toxicity to reproduction. Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with ceftazidime.

PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1. List of excipients

Sodium carbonate anhydrous

6.2. Incompatibilities

Ceftazidime is less stable in Sodium Bicarbonate Injection than other intravenous fluids. It is not recommended as a diluent.

Ceftazidime and aminoglycosides should not be mixed in the same giving set or syringe.

Precipitation has been reported when vancomycin has been added to ceftazidime in solution. It is recommended that giving sets and intravenous lines are flushed between administration of these two agents.

6.3. Shelf life

The expiry date of the product is indicated on the label and packaging.

6.4. Special precautions for storage

The unconstituted product should be stored below 25°C and in the outer carton box to protect from light. Constituted solutions may be stored in the refrigerator (2 - 8°C) for up to 24 hours or 8 hours below 25°C .

6.5. Nature and contents of container

Individually cartoned vials containing 1 g ceftazidime (as pentahydrate) for intramuscular or intravenous use in packs of 1.
Individually cartoned vials containing 2 g ceftazidime (as pentahydrate) for intravenous use in packs of 1.
Type III glass vials with a bromobutyl rubber closure with silicate filler and an aluminium flip-off caps.

6.6. Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Septax: Instructions for use/handling

Instructions for constitution: See table for addition volumes and solution concentrations, which may be useful when fractional doses are required.
Preparation of solution

Vial size	Amount of diluent to be added (ml)	Approximate Concentration (mg/ml)
1 g Intramuscular	3.0	260
1 g Intravenous	10.0	90
2 g Intravenous bolus	10.0	170
2 g Intravenous infusion	50.0	40 [†]

[†]Note: Use Sodium Chloride Injection 0.9% or Dextrose Injection 5% as Water for Injections produces hypotonic solutions at this concentration.

All sizes of vials as supplied are under reduced pressure. As the product dissolves, carbon dioxide is released and a positive pressure develops.

1 g i.m./i.v., and 2 g i.v. bolus vials:

1. Insert the syringe needle through the vial closure and inject the recommended volume of diluent. The vacuum may assist entry of the diluent. Remove the syringe needle.
2. Shake to dissolve: carbon dioxide is released and a clear solution will be obtained in about 1 to 2 minutes.
3. Invert the vial. With the syringe plunger fully depressed, insert the needle through the vial closure and withdraw the total volume of solution into the syringe (the pressure in the vial may aid withdrawal). Ensure that the needle remains within the solution and does not enter the head space. The withdrawn solution may contain small bubbles of carbon dioxide; they may be disregarded.

2 g i.v. infusion vials:

This vial may be constituted for short intravenous infusion (e.g. up to 30 minutes) as follows:

1. Insert the syringe needle through the vial closure and inject 10 ml of diluent for 2 g vial. The vacuum may assist entry of the diluent. Remove the syringe needle.
2. Shake to dissolve: carbon dioxide is released and a clear solution will be obtained in about 1 to 2 minutes.
3. Insert a gas relief needle through the vial closure to relieve the internal pressure and, with the gas relief in position, add a further 40 ml of diluent for 2 g vial.

Remove the gas relief needle and syringe needle; shake the vial and set up for infusion use in the normal way.

NOTE: To preserve product sterility, it is important that a gas relief needle is not inserted through the vial closure before the product has dissolved.

Vials of Septax for Injection do not contain any preservatives and should be used as single-dose preparations.

In keeping with good pharmaceutical practice, it is preferable to use freshly constituted solutions of Septax for Injection. If this is not practicable, the product can be used as the following after reconstitution: 8 hours when stored at or below 25°C and 24 hours when stored at 2-8°C when prepared in Water for Injections BP or any of the injections listed below:

At ceftazidime concentrations between 1 mg/ml and 40 mg/ml in:

0.9 Sodium Chloride Injection BP
5% Dextrose Injection BP
(Ceftazidime is less stable in Sodium Bicarbonate Injection than in the above stated intravenous fluids. It is not recommended as a diluent).

7. Manufacturer

VIANEX S.A, Nea Erithrea , GREECE

8. License Holder and Importer

Bioavenir LTD, 1 David Hamelech St., Herzliya Pituach 4666101 , ISRAEL

9. License Number

SEPTAX 1 G 135 96 31243 00
SEPTAX 2 G 135 97 31244 00

Septax 1 & 2 – SPC- 0718-01

Septax PL PB0718-05