Nutriflex[®] Omega special Emulsion for infusion

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Nutriflex Omega special Emulsion for infusion

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

The ready-for-use emulsion for intravenous infusion contains after mixing the chamber contents:

	1				
from the upper, left-hand chamber (glucose solution)	in 1000 ml	in 625 ml	in 1250 ml	in 1875 ml	in 2500 ml
Glucose monohydrate equivalent to glucose	158.4 g 144.0 g	99.00 g 90.00 g	198.0 g 180.0 g	297.0 g 270.0 g	396.0 g 360.0 g
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate di- hydrate	2.496 g	1.560 g	3.120 g	4.680 g	6.240 g
Zinc acetate dihydrate	7.024 mg	4.390 mg	8.780 mg	13.17 mg	17.56 mg
from the upper, right-hand cham- ber (fat emulsion)	in 1000 ml	in 625 ml	in 1250 ml	in 1875 ml	in 2500 ml
Medium-chain triglycerides	20.00 g	12.50 g	25.00 g	37.50 g	50.00 g
Soya-bean oil, refined	16.00 g	10.00 g	20.00 g	30.00 g	40.00 g
Omega-3-acid triglycerides	4.000 g	2.500 g	5.000 g	7.500 g	10.00 g

from the lower chamber (amino acid solution)	in 1000 ml	in 625 ml	in 1250 ml	in 1875 ml	in 2500 ml
Isoleucine	3.284 g	2.053 g	4.105 g	6.158 g	8.210 g
Leucine	4.384 g	2.740 g	5.480 g	8.220 g	10.96 g
Lysine hydrochloride	3.980 g	2.488 g	4.975 g	7.463 g	9.950 g
equivalent to lysine	3.186 g	1.991 g	3.982 g	5.973 g	7.962 g
Methionine	2.736 g	1.710 g	3.420 g	5.130 g	6.840 g
Phenylalanine	4.916 g	3.073 g	6.145 g	9.218 g	12.29 g
Threonine	2.540 g	1.588 g	3.175 g	4.763 g	6.350 g
Tryptophan	0.800 g	0.500 g	1.000 g	1.500 g	2.000 g
Valine	3.604 g	2.253 g	4.505 g	6.758 g	9.010 g
Arginine	3.780 g	2.363 g	4.725 g	7.088 g	9.450 g
Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate equivalent to histidine	2.368 g 1.753 g	1.480 g 1.095 g	2.960 g 2.191 g	4.440 g 3.286 g	5.920 g 4.381 g
Alanine	6.792 g	4.245 g	8.490 g	12.73 g	16.98 g
Aspartic acid	2.100 g	1.313 g	2.625 g	3.938 g	5.250 g
Glutamic acid	4.908 g	3.068 g	6.135 g	9.203 g	12.27 g
Glycine	2.312 g	1.445 g	2.890 g	4.335 g	5.780 g
Proline	4.760 g	2.975 g	5.950 g	8.925 g	11.90 g
Serine	4.200 g	2.625 g	5.250 g	7.875 g	10.50 g
Sodium hydroxide	1.171 g	0.732 g	1.464 g	2.196 g	2.928 g
Sodium chloride	0.378 g	0.237 g	0.473 g	0.710 g	0.946 g
Sodium acetate trihydrate	0.250 g	0.157 g	0.313 g	0.470 g	0.626 g
Potassium acetate	3.689 g	2.306 g	4.611 g	6.917 g	9.222 g
Magnesium acetate tetrahydrate	0.910 g	0.569 g	1.137 g	1.706 g	2.274 g
Calcium chloride dihydrate	0.623 g	0.390 g	0.779 g	1.169 g	1.558 g

Depending on the patient's metabolic condition, occasional hypertriglyceridaemia may occur. If the plasma triglyceride concentration exceeds 4.6 mmol/l (400 mg/dl) during administration of lipids, it is recommended to reduce the infusion rate. The infusion must be interrupted if the plasma triglyceride concentration exceeds 11.4 mmol/l (1000 mg/dl), as these levels have been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Patients with impaired lipid metabolism

Nutriflex Omega special should be administered cautiously to patients with disturbances of lipid metabolism with increased serum triglycerides, e.g. renal insufficiency, diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, impaired hepatic function, hypothyroidism (with hypertriglyceridaemia), sepsis, and metabolic syndrome. If Nutriflex Omega special is given to patients with these conditions, more frequent monitoring of serum triglycerides is necessary to assure triglyceride elimination and stable triglyceride levels below 11.4 mmol/l (1000 mg/dl).

In combined hyperlipidaemias and in metabolic syndrome, triglyceride levels react to glucose, lipids and overnutrition. Adjust dose accordingly. Assess and monitor other lipid and glucose sources, and drugs interfering with their metabolism.

The presence of hypertriglyceridaemia 12 hours after lipid administration also indicates a disturbance of lipid metabolism. Like all solutions containing carbohydrates, the administration of Nutriflex Omega special can lead to hyperglycaemia. The blood glucose level should be monitored. If there is hyperglycaemia, the rate of infusion should be reduced or insulin should be administered. If the patient is receiving other intravenous glucose solutions concurrently, the amount of additionally administered glucose has to be taken into account.

An interruption of administration of the emulsion may be indicated if the blood glucose concentration rises to above 14 mmol/l (250 mg/dl) during administration.

Refeeding or repletion of malnourished or depleted patients may cause hypokalaemia, hypophosphataemia and hypomagnesaemia.Close monitoring of serum electrolytes is mandatory. Adequate supplementation of electrolytes according to deviations from normal values is necessary.

Controls of the serum electrolytes, the water balance, the acid-base balance, and of blood cell counts, coagulation status, hepatic and renal function are necessary.

Substitution of electrolytes, vitamins and trace elements may be necessary as required. As Nutriflex Omega special contains zinc, magnesium, calcium and phosphate, care should be taken when it is coadministered with solutions containing these substances.

Nutriflex Omega special is a preparation of complex composition. It is, therefore, strongly advisable not to add other solutions (as long as compatibility is not proven - see section 6.2).

Nutriflex Omega special should not be given simultaneously with blood in the same infusion set due to the risk of pseudoagglutination (see also section 4.5).

As with all intravenous solutions, especially for parenteral nutrition, strict aseptic precautions are necessary for the infusion of Nutriflex Omega special.

Paediatric population

There is as yet no clinical experience of the use of Nutriflex Omega special in children and adolescents.

Elderly patients

Basically the same dosage as for adults applies, but caution should

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			in 1000 ml	in 625 ml	in 1250 ml	in 1875 ml	in 2500 ml
	Amino acid content	[g]	56.0	35.1	70.1	105.1	140.1
	Nitrogen content	[g]	8	5	10	15	20
- L	Carbohydrate content	[g]	144	90	180	270	360
	Lipid content	[g]	40	25	50	75	100

Electrolytes [mmol]	in 1000 ml	in 625 ml	in 1250 ml	in 1875 ml	in 2500 ml
Sodium	53.6	33.5	67	100.5	134
Potassium	37.6	23.5	47	70.5	94
Magnesium	4.2	2.65	5.3	7.95	10.6
Calcium	4.2	2.65	5.3	7.95	10.6
Zinc	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.08
Chloride	48	30	60	90	120
Acetate	48	30	60	90	120
Phosphate	16	10	20	30	40

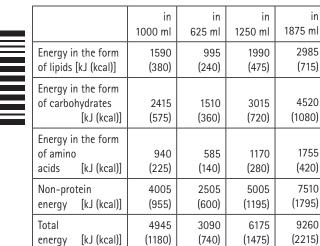
For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Emulsion for infusion

Amino acids and glucose solutions: clear, colourless up to straw-coloured solutions

Fat emulsion: oil-in-water emulsion, milky white



Osmolality	2170
[mOsm/kg]	
Theoretical osmolarity [mOsm/l]	1545
рН	5.0 - 6.0

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Supply of energy essential fatty acids including omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, amino acids, electrolytes and fluids for parenteral nutrition of patients in states of moderate to severe catabolism when oral or teral nutrition is impossible, insufficient or c ntraindicated

be exercised in patients suffering from further diseases like cardiac insufficiency or renal insufficiency that may frequently be associated with advanced age.

Patients with diabetes mellitus, impaired cardiac or renal function

Like all large-volume infusion solutions, Nutriflex Omega special should be administered with caution to patients with impaired cardiac or renal function.

There is only limited experience of its use in patients with diabetes mellitus or renal failure.

This medicinal product contains 771 mg sodium per 625 ml bag, equivalent to 39% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult.

The maximum daily dose of this product for a 70 kg adult is equivalent to 151% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake for sodium. Nutriflex Omega special is considered high in sodium. This should be particularly taken into account for those on a low salt diet.

Interference with laboratory tests

The fat content may interfere with certain laboratory measurements (e.g. bilirubin, lactate dehydrogenase, oxygen saturation) if blood is sampled before fat has been adequately cleared from the blood stream.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Some drugs, like insulin, may interfere with the body's lipase system. This kind of interaction seems, however, to be of only limited clinical importance.

Heparin given in clinical doses causes a transient release of lipoprotein lipase into the circulation. This may result initially in increased plasma lipolysis followed by a transient decrease in triglyceride clearance.

Soya-bean oil has a natural content of vitamin K₁. This may interfere with the therapeutic effect of coumarin derivatives which should be closely monitored in patients treated with such drugs.

Potassium-containing solutions like Nutriflex Omega special should be used with caution in patients receiving drugs that increase serum potassium concentration, such as potassium-sparing diuretics (triamterene, amiloride, spironolactone), ACE inhibitors (e.g. captopril, enalapril), angiotensin-II-receptor antagonists (e.g. losartan, valsartan), ciclosporin and tacrolimus.



Corticosteroids and ACTH are associated with sodium and fluid retention.

Nutriflex Omega special should not be given simultaneously with blood in the same infusion set due to the risk of pseudoagglutination (see also section 4.4).

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

in

2985

(715)

4520

(1080)

1755

(420)

7510

(1795)

9260

(2215)

in

2500 ml

3980

(950)

6030

(1440)

2340

(560)

10010

(2390)

12350

(2950)

There are no or limited amount of data from the use of Nutriflex Omega special in pregnant women. Animal studies are insufficient with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3).

Parenteral nutrition may become necessary during pregnancy. Nutriflex Omega special should only be given to pregnant women after careful consideration.

Breast-feeding

Components/metabolites of Nutriflex Omega special are excreted in human milk, but at therapeutic doses no effects on the breastfed newborns/infants are anticipated.

Nevertheless, breast-feeding is not recommended for mothers on parenteral nutrition.

Fertility

No data from the use of Nutriflex Omega special available.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Nutriflex Omega special has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Under conditions of correct use, in terms of dosing monitoring, observation of safety restrictions and instructions, undesirable effects may still occur. The following listing includes a number of systemic reactions that may be associated with the use of Nutriflex Omega special.

Undesirable effects are listed according to their frequencies as follows:

Very common	(≥ 1/10)
Common	(≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)
Uncommon	(≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100)
Rare	$(\geq 1/10,000 \text{ to} < 1/1,000)$

Nutriflex Omega special is indicated in adults.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The dosage should be adapted to the patients' individual requirements.

It is recommended that Nutriflex Omega special be administered continuously. A stepwise increase of the infusion rate over the first 30 minutes up to the desired infusion rate avoids possible complications.

Adults

The maximum da	aily dose amounts	to 35	ml /	kg	body	weight,
corresponding to						
2.0 g amino acids	/ kg body weight pe	r day				
5.04 g glucose	/ kg body weight pe	r day				
1.4 g lipid	/ kg body weight pe	r day.				

The maximum rate of infusion is 1.7 ml / kg body weight per hour, corresponding to

0.1 g amino acids	/ kg body weight per hour
0.24 g glucose	/ kg body weight per hour
0.07 g lipid	/ kg body weight per hour.

For a patient weighing 70 kg this corresponds to a maximum infusion rate of 119 ml per hour. The amount of substrate administered is then 6.8 g of amino acids per hour, 17.1 g of glucose per hour and 4.8 g of lipids per hour.

Paediatric population

Nutriflex Omega special is contraindicated in newborn infants, infants and toddlers < 2 years of age (see section 4.3). Safety and efficacy in children > 2 years and adolescents have not been established.

Patients with renal/hepatic impairment

The doses should be adjusted individually in patients with hepatic or renal insufficiency (see also section 4.4).

Duration of treatment

The duration of treatment for the indications stated is not limited. During the administration of Nutriflex Omega special it is necessary to provide an appropriate amount of trace elements and vitamins.

Duration of infusion of one single bag

The recommended duration of infusion for a parenteral nutrition bag is maximum 24 h.

Method of administration

Intravenous use. For central venous infusion only.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substances, to egg, fish, peanut or soya protein or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1
- Inborn errors of amino acid metabolism
- Severe hypertriglyceridaemia (≥ 1000 mg/dl or 11.4 mmol/l)
- Severe coagulopathy
- · Hyperglycaemia not responding to insulin doses of up to 6 units insulin/hour
- Acidosis
- Intrahepatic cholestasis
- Severe hepatic insufficiency
- · Severe renal insufficiency in absence of renal replacement therapy
- Aggravating haemorrhagic diatheses
- Acute thrombo-embolic events, lipid embolism

On account of its composition Nutriflex Omega special must not be used in newborn infants, infants and toddlers under 2 years of age.

General contraindications to parenteral nutrition include:

- Unstable circulatory status with vital threat (states of collapse and shock)
- Acute phases of cardiac infarction and stroke
- Unstable metabolic condition (e.g. severe postaggression syndrome, coma of unknown origin)
- Inadequate cellular oxygen supply
- Disturbances of the electrolyte and fluid balance
- Acute pulmonary oedema
- Decompensated cardiac insufficiency

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Caution should be exercised in cases of increased serum osmolarity.

Disturbances of the fluid, electrolyte or acid-base balance must be corrected before the start of infusion.

Too rapid infusion can lead to fluid overload with pathological serum electrolyte concentrations, hyperhydration and pulmonary oedema.

Very rare (< 1/10,000) Not known (Frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Hypercoagulation Rare: Not known Leucopenia, thrombocytopenia

Immune system disorders

Allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic reactions, dermal Rare: eruptions, laryngeal, oral and facial oedema)

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, metabolic acidosis, Very rare: The frequency of these undesirable effects is dosedependent and may be higher under the condition of absolute or relative lipid overdose.

Nervous system disorders

Headache, drowsiness Rare:

Vascular disorders

Hypertension or hypotension, flush Rare:

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Dyspnoea, cyanosis Rare:

Gastrointestinal disorders

Uncommon: Nausea, vomiting,

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Uncommon: Loss of appetite

Hepatobiliary disorders

Not known: Cholestasis

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Erythema, sweating Rare:

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Pain in the back, bones, chest and lumbar region Rare:

General disorders and administration site conditions

Elevated body temperature, feeling cold, chills Rare: Fat overload syndrome (details see below) Very rare:

Should adverse reactions occur, the infusion must be stopped.

Should the triglyceride level rise to above 11.4 mmol/l (1000 mg/dl) during infusion, the infusion must be stopped. With levels above 4.6 mmol/l (400 mg/dl), the infusion may be continued at a reduced dosage (see section 4.4).

If the infusion is restarted, the patient should be carefully monitored, especially at the beginning, and serum triglycerides should be determined at short intervals.

Information on particular undesirable effects

Nausea, vomiting and lack of appetite are symptoms often related to conditions for which parenteral nutrition is indicated, and may be associated with parenteral nutrition at the same time.

Fat overload syndrome

Impaired capacity to eliminate triglycerides can lead to "fat overload syndrome" which may be caused by overdose. Possible signs of metabolic overload must be observed. The cause may be genetic (individually different metabolism) or the fat metabolism may be affected by ongoing or previous illnesses. This syndrome may also appear during severe hypertriglyceridaemia, even at the recommended infusion rate, and in association with a sudden change in the patient's clinical condition, such as renal function impairment or infection. The fat overload syndrome is characterised by hyperlipidaemia, fever, fat infiltration, hepatomegaly with or without icterus, splenomegaly, anaemia, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia, coagulation disorder, haemolysis and reticulocytosis, abnormal liver function tests and coma. The symptoms are usually reversible if the infusion of the fat emulsion is discontinued.

Should signs of a fat overload syndrome occur, the infusion of Nutriflex Omega special should be discontinued immediately.

Note

Patients should inform their doctor or pharmacist if they notice any side effect not mentioned in this leaflet.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms of fluid and electrolyte overdose Hyperhydration, electrolyte imbalance and pulmonary oedema



Any sign or symptom of anaphylactic reaction (such as fever, shivering, rash or dyspnoea) should lead to immediate interruption of the infusion.

Symptoms of amino acid overdose

The serum triglyceride concentration should be monitored when infusing Renal amino acid losses with consecutive amino acid imbalances sickness, vomiting and shivering Nutriflex Omega special.



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Symptoms of glucose overdose

Hyperglycaemia, glucosuria, dehydration, hyperosmolality, hyperglycaemic-hyperosmolar coma

Symptoms of lipid overdose

See section 4.8.

Treatment

Immediate cessation of infusion is indicated for overdose. Further therapeutic measures depend on the particular symptoms and their severity. When infusion is recommenced after the symptoms have declined it is recommended that the infusion rate be raised gradually with monitoring at frequent intervals.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group

Solutions for parenteral nutrition, combinations ATC code: B 05BA10

Mechanism of action

The purpose of parenteral nutrition is to supply all necessary nutrients and energy for the growth and/or regeneration of tissue as well as for the maintenance of all body functions.

Amino acids are of particular importance since some of them are essential components for protein synthesis. The simultaneous administration of energy sources (carbohydrates/lipids) is necessary to reserve amino acids for tissue regeneration and anabolism, and prevent their utilisation as energy source.

Glucose is ubiquitously metabolised within the organism. Some tissues and organs, such as CNS, bone marrow, erythrocytes, tubular epithelium, cover their energy requirement exclusively from glucose. In addition glucose acts as a structural building block for various cell substances.

On account of their high energy density lipids are an efficient form of energy supply. Long-chain triglycerides provide the organism with essential fatty acids for the synthesis of cell components. For these purposes the fat emulsion contains medium-chain and long-chain triglycerides (deriving from soya-bean oil and fish oil).

The long-chain triglyceride fraction contains omega-6 and omega-3 triglycerides for supply of polyunsaturated fatty acids. They are primarily intended for the prevention and treatment of essential fatty acid deficiency, but also as a source of energy. Nutriflex Omega special contains essential omega-6 fatty acids, mainly in the form of linoleic acid, and omega-3 fatty acids in the form of alpha-linolenic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, and docosahexaenoic acid. The ratio of omega-6/ omega-3 fatty acids in Nutriflex Omega special is approximately 2.5:1.

Medium-chain triglycerides are more rapidly hydrolysed, eliminated from the circulation and completely oxidised than long-chain triglycerides. They are a favoured energy substrate, particularly when there is disturbance of the degradation and/or utilisation of long-chain triglycerides, e.g. when there is a lipoprotein lipase deficiency and/or a deficiency in lipoprotein lipase cofactors.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Nutriflex Omega special is infused intravenously. Hence, all substrates are available for metabolism immediately.

Distribution

The dose, rate of infusion, metabolic situation and individual factors of the patient (level of fasting) are of decisive importance for the maximum triglyceride concentrations reached. When used according to the instructions with due regard to the dosage guidelines the triglyceride concentrations do not, in general, exceed 4.6 mmol/l (400 mg/dl).

Medium-chain fatty acids have a low affinity to albumin. In animal experiments administering pure medium-chain triglyceride emulsions, it has been shown that medium-chain fatty acids can cross the bloodbrain barrier, if overdosed. No adverse effects were observed with an emulsion providing a mixture of medium-chain triglycerides and longchain triglycerides, as long-chain triglycerides have an inhibiting effect on medium-chain triglyceride hydrolysis. Therefore, toxic effects on the brain can be excluded after the administration of Nutriflex Omega special.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients:

Citric acid monohydrate (for pH adjustment) Glycerol Egg lecithin Sodium oleate, Sodium Hydroxide (for pH adjustment) all-rac-alpha-Tocopherol Water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

Nutriflex Omega special must not be mixed with other medicinal products for which compatibility has not been documented. See section 6.6.

Nutriflex Omega special should not be given simultaneously with blood, see sections 4.4 and 4.5.

6.3 Shelf life

Unopened

2 years

After removing the protective overwrap and after mixing of the contents of the bag

Chemical and physicochemical in-use stability of the mixture of amino acids, glucose and fat was demonstrated for 7 days at 2-8 $^\circ\text{C}$ and additional 2 days at 25 $^\circ\text{C}.$

After admixture of compatible additives

From a microbiological point of view, the product should be used immediately after admixture of additives. If not used immediately after admixture of additives, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user.

After first opening (spiking of the infusion port)

The emulsion is to be used immediately after opening of the container.

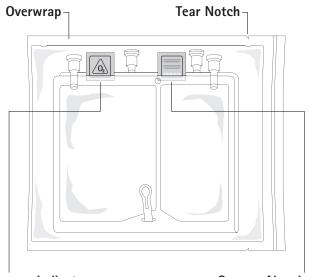
6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25 °C. Do not freeze. If accidentally frozen, discard the bag. Keep the bag in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Nutriflex Omega special is supplied in flexible multichamber bags of polyamide/polypropylene containing:

- 625 ml (250 ml of amino acids solution + 125 ml of fat emulsion + 250 ml of glucose solution)
- 1250 ml (500 ml of amino acids solution + 250 ml of fat emulsion + 500 ml of glucose solution)
- 1875 ml (750 ml of amino acids solution + 375 ml of fat emulsion + 750 ml of glucose solution)
- 2500 ml (1000 ml of amino acids solution + 500 ml of fat emulsion + 1000 ml of glucose solution)



Oxygen Indicator

Amino acids are incorporated in a variety of proteins in different organs of the body. In addition each amino acid is maintained as free amino acid in the blood and inside cells.

As glucose is water-soluble, it is distributed with the blood over the whole body. At first, the glucose solution is distributed in the intravascular space and then it is taken up into the intracellular space.

No data are available concerning transport of the components through the placental barrier.

Biotransformation

Amino acids that do not enter protein synthesis are metabolised as follows. The amino group is separated from the carbon skeleton by transamination. The carbon chain is either oxidised directly to CO_2 or utilised as substrate for gluconeogenesis in the liver. The amino group is also metabolised in the liver to urea.

Glucose is metabolised to CO_2 and H_2O via the known metabolic routes. Some glucose is utilised for lipid synthesis.

After infusion, triglycerides are hydrolysed to glycerol and fatty acids. Both are incorporated in physiological pathways for energy production, synthesis of biological active molecules, gluconeogenesis and resynthesis of lipids.

In detail, long-chain omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids replace arachidonic acid as an eicosanoid substrate in cell membranes and decrease the generation of inflammatory eicosanoids and cytokines in the body. This may be of benefit in patients at risk of developing a hyperinflammatory state and sepsis.

Elimination

Only minor amounts of amino acids are excreted unchanged in urine.

Excess glucose is excreted in urine only if the renal threshold of glucose is reached.

Both the triglycerides of soya-bean oil and medium-chain triglycerides are completely metabolised to CO_2 and H_2O . Small amounts of lipids are lost only during sloughing of cells from skin and other epithelial membranes. Renal excretion does virtually not occur.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical studies have not been performed with Nutriflex Omega special.

Toxic effects of mixtures of nutrients given as substitution therapy at the recommended dosage are not to be expected.

Reproductive toxicity

Phytoestrogens such as β -sitosterol can be found in various vegetable oils, especially in soya-bean oil. Impairment of fertility was observed in rats and rabbits after subcutaneous and intravaginal administration of β -sitosterol. After administration of pure β -sitosterol a decrease of the testicular weight and a reduction of the sperm concentration in male rats and a lowered pregnancy rate in female rabbits were recorded. However, according to the current state of knowledge the observed effects in animals do not seem to have relevance for clinical use.

The multichamber bag is packed in a protective overwrap. An oxygen absorber and an oxygen indicator are placed between the bag and the overwrap; the oxygen absorber sachet is made of inert material and contains iron hydroxide.

The two upper chambers can be connected with the lower chamber by opening the intermediate seam (peel seam).

The design of the bag permits mixing of the amino acids, glucose, lipids and electrolytes in a single chamber. Opening the peel seam results in sterile mixing to form an emulsion.

The different container sizes are presented in cartons containing five bags. Pack sizes: 5×625 ml, 5×1250 ml, 5×1875 ml and 5×2500 ml. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements for disposal.

Parenteral nutrition products should be visually inspected for damage, discolouration and emulsion instability before use.

Do not use bags which are damaged. Overwrap, primary bag and the peel seam between the chambers should be intact. Only use if the amino acid and glucose solutions are clear and colourless up to straw-coloured and the lipid emulsion is homogenous with milky white appearance. Do not use if the solutions contain particulate matter. After mixing the three chambers, do not use if the emulsion shows discoloration or signs of phase separation (oil drops, oil layer). Stop the infusion immediately in case of discoloration of the emulsion or signs of phase separation. Before opening the overwrap, check the colour of the oxygen indicator

(see figure). Do not use if the oxygen indicator turned red. Use only if the oxygen indicator is yellow.

Preparation of the mixed emulsion:

Remove inner bag from its protective overwrap and proceed as follows: • Put the bag on a solid, flat surface

- Mix glucose with amino acids by pressing the upper left chamber against the peel seam, then add the fat emulsion by pressing the upper right chamber against the peel seam
- Mix the contents of the bag thoroughly
- The mixture is a milky white homogenous oil-in-water emulsion.

Preparation for infusion:

- The emulsion should always be brought to room temperature prior to infusion. Fold the bag and hang it on the infusion stand by the centre hanging loop
- Remove the protective cap from the infusion port and carry out infusion using the standard technique

For single use only. Container and unused residues must be discarded after use.

Do not reconnect partially used containers.

If filters are used they must be lipid-permeable (pore size = $1.2 \ \mu$ m).

7. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

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