### Alert
Albumex® 20 is normally clear or slightly opalescent. If it appears to be turbid it must not be used and the bottle should be returned unopened to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. **Albumin 20% must not be used as the initial resuscitating fluid in hypotensive infants.** If the product has been stored in the refrigerator it should be allowed to reach room temperature before administration.

### Indication
Hypoalbuminaemia

### Action
Albumin is involved in the maintenance of colloid osmotic pressure, binding and transport of plasma compounds (bilirubin, bile acids, long-chain fatty acids, thyroxin, vitamin D, calcium, magnesium, copper, zinc), renders some potential toxins harmless, is a carrier of nitric oxide and affects pharmacokinetics of many drugs. Albumin 20% is hyper-oncotic but hypo-osmotic (130 mOsm/kg) compared to human serum with a pH 6.7 to 7.3. The half-life of albumin is about 19 days.

### Drug Type
Plasma product, manufactured from human plasma collected by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

### Trade Name
Albumex® 20

### Presentation
Albumex® 20 – 10 mL (2 g albumin) and 100 mL (20 g albumin) bottles. Each bottle contains Human Albumin 200 g/L and sodium 48 to 100 mmol/L. Albumex® 20 contains trace amounts of aluminium (≤200 micrograms/L).

### Dosage/Interval
IV 0.5 to 1 g/kg/dose (2.5 to 5 mL/kg/dose) of Albumex® 20.

### Maximum daily dose
Intravenous Infusion over 2–4 hours.

### Route
- Intravenous Infusion over 2–4 hours.
- Administration of Albumex® 20 to Albumin 4% in case of unavailability of albumin 4%
- Albumex® 20 can be diluted to an iso-oncotic protein concentration (4 to 5% albumin) prior to administration. Dilute in the proportion of 1 mL of Albumex® 20 to 4 mL of crystalloid solution (sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5% or 10%). DO NOT dilute with water since the lower tonicity will lead to intravascular haemolysis.

### Administration
Intravenously over 2 to 4 hours. Albumex 20 is packaged in a glass bottle that must be vented during use.17

### Monitoring
Continuous cardiorespiratory and temperature observations.

### Contraindications
History of allergy to albumin.

### Precautions
Cardiac failure, pulmonary oedema or severe anaemia.
- The sodium concentration in this product varies between 48 and 100 mmol/L. This should be noted when the product is used in patients requiring sodium restriction.
- Administration of albumin can aggravate myocardial depression in patients with shock.
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### Drug Interactions
Hypotension has been reported in patients given albumin who are on angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. The addition of other medicines to Albumex® 20 has not been evaluated.

### Adverse Reactions
Allergic reactions. Possible harms associated with albumin infusion in neonates include fluid overload (pulmonary oedema, impaired gas exchange, worsening oxygenation, chronic lung disease, patent ductus arteriosus, myocardial dysfunction especially for infants with birth asphyxia), neurological injury (cerebral oedema, intraventricular haemorrhage due to rapid bolus administration), salt loading and fluid retention.

### Compatibility
Glucose 5% and 10%, glucose-sodium chloride combination.18
**Incompatibility**

Albumex® 20 should not be mixed with protein hydrolysates, amino acid solutions, solutions containing alcohol or solutions containing drugs that bind to albumin (e.g. calcium channel blockers, antibiotics and benzodiazepines).

**Stability**

**Storage**

10 mL: Store at 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerate. Do not freeze).
100 mL: Store below 30°C (Do not freeze).
Protect from light.

**Special Comments**

**Evidence summary**

Refer to full version.

**References**

Refer to full version.