Diphtheria Antitoxin (equine)

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Please consult the Product Leaflet[1] for further information about this product.

Manufacturer	VINS Bioproducts Limited, India
Authorization and access	**Special authorization and access procedures must be followed**. • The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) must be notified by the fastest means possible of all cases in which diphtheria antitoxin is required • Available on a 24-hour basis from Alberta Health by calling OCMOH pager: 780-638-3630. A Special Access Program (SAP) Form is included with the product and must be completed and returned to Alberta Health. **Note**: **Diphtheria Antitoxin (equine) is stocked in the Provincial Vaccine Depot.**
Indications for use of diphtheria antitoxin serum	Treatment of suspected (based on clinical symptoms) or confirmed disease. Bacteriologic confirmation is not required to initiate treatment.[1] **Note**: Not recommended for prophylaxis of close, unimmunized contacts of diphtheria cases.[1,2] For further information about the disease and reporting requirements refer to: *Public Health Notifiable Disease Management Guidelines – Diphtheria*.[3]
Dose	The therapeutic dose is determined by the severity of the disease.[1] Follow the dosage as outlined on the Product Leaflet. **This is a treatment product administered under the direction of a physician in an acute care setting.** **Note:** Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied in 10 mL vials containing 10,000 IU each. For example the product leaflet recommends 10,000 – 30,000 IU for mild to moderately severe cases and up to a maximum of 100,000 I U for severe cases.[1]
Route	Refer to the Product Leaflet.
Schedule	❖ Diphtheria antitoxin serum should be administered as soon as possible after clinical diagnosis. Treatment should not await laboratory confirmation of toxigenic *C. diphtheriae*. ❖ Skin testing for serum hypersensitivity should be carried out before diphtheria antitoxin is administered.[1,2] Refer to the product information and Annex A and B of *Public Health Notifiable Disease Management Guidelines – Diphtheria*.[3] **Note**: Individuals who have recovered from diphtheria should receive the age-appropriate diphtheria-containing vaccine. The vaccine should be administered three to four weeks after diphtheria antitoxin was administered to minimize antigen-antibody antagonism.[5] Diphtheria does not necessarily confer immunity.[2,4]
Pregnancy	Pregnancy is not a contraindication to the use of diphtheria antitoxin serum. Intact IgG crosses the placenta from maternal circulation increasingly after 30 weeks.[5]
Lactation	Breastfeeding is not a contraindication to diphtheria antitoxin serum. It is not known if antitoxin antibodies are excreted into breast milk.[5]

References

[1] VINS BIOPRODUCTS Limited. Diphtheria Antitoxin I.P./B.P. *Product Leaflet*.

[2] National Advisory Committee on Immunization. (2013). *Canadian Immunization Guide* (Evergreen ed.). Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada. www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html.

[3] Alberta Health and Wellness. Diphtheria. In *Public Health Notifiable Disease Management Guidelines*. www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/notifiable-diseases-guide.html

[4] American Academy of Pediatrics. (2012). *Red Book: 2012 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases* (29th ed.). Elk It Grove Village, IL: Author.

[5] Grabenstein, J. D. (2012). *ImmunoFacts: Vaccines and Immunologic Drugs - 2013*. St. Louis, MO: Wolters Kluwer Health.

