

Where's the error?

The doctor has written an order for 500 mg of cephalexin to be given to a patient every 8 hours. Careless Carol has solved a proportion to determine how many milliliters of the suspension (refer to label) the patient needs to take. Here is Carol's work:



$$5:250::500:?$$

$$5 \times ? = 250 \times 500$$

$$? = \frac{250 \times 500}{5}$$

$$? = 25,000$$

According to Carol's calculations, the correct dose to give to the patient is 25,000. She knows that this cannot be correct, but can't figure out where she went wrong in her calculations. Where is the error?

TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS USA
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L52866
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CEPHALEXIN

For Oral Suspension, USP

250 mg per 5 mL

when reconstituted according to directions.

Usual Children's Dose: 25 to 50 mg per kg a day in four divided doses. For more severe infections, dose may be doubled. See literature.

Rx only

WARNING: NOT FOR INJECTION

100 mL (when mixed)

IMPORTANT
STORE RECONSTITUTED SUSPENSION IN REFRIGERATOR. DISCARD AFTER 14 DAYS.

Date of reconstitution:

Shake well before using. Keep tightly closed.

KEEP THIS AND ALL MEDICATIONS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

Store dry powder at controlled room temperature, between 20° and 25°C (68° and 77°F) (see USP).

TO THE PHARMACIST: Prepare suspension at time of dispensing. Add to the bottle a total of 71 mL of water. For ease in preparation, tap bottle to loosen powder, add the water in 2 portions, shaking well after each addition. The resulting suspension will contain cephalexin monohydrate equivalent to 250 mg cephalexin in each 5 mL (teaspoonful).

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