Calculating IV rates: time remaining

**Step 1 of 3**

To calculate the time it will take to dispense the amount of fluid left in the bag:

Use this formula:

\[
\frac{\text{volume remaining (in mls)}}{\text{drops per minute}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]

Write down the volume remaining in the bag.

![Image of a bag with IV fluid]

480 mls remaining

\[
\frac{480 \text{ mls}}{\text{drops per minute}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]

**Step 2 of 3**

Write down the drops per minute (already calculated when infusion set up)

Remember the formula:

\[
\frac{\text{volume remaining (in mls)}}{\text{drops per minute}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]

![Image of a doctor writing]

40 drops per minute

\[
\frac{480 \text{ mls}}{40 \text{ dpm}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]
Step 3 of 3

Check the 'drop factor' (determined by the administration set). The drop factor is the **drops per millilitre** delivered to the patient (commonly 15, 20 or 60 drops/ml).

Remember the formula:

\[
\frac{\text{volume remaining (in mls)}}{\text{drops per minute}} \times \frac{\text{drop factor}}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]

Example:

\[
\frac{480 \text{ mls}}{40 \text{ dpm}} \times \frac{20}{1} = \text{minutes remaining}
\]

\[
\frac{480 \times 20}{40} = 240 \text{ minutes (or 4 hours)}
\]

Administration sets

A typical administration set (also called a 'giving set' or 'infusion set'), including tubing, burette, drip chamber and roller clamp. A variety of devices is used to control the volume delivered.

A pump may be available to regulate the IV flow.