

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## JJ-9 DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL)

1. Class:
  - 1.1. Antihistamine.
2. Description:
  - 2.1. Antihistamines prevent the physiological actions of histamine by blocking H1 and H2 receptor sites. Antihistamines are indicated for conditions in which histamine excess is present (e.g., acute urticaria) and are used as adjunctive therapy (with epinephrine, for example) in the treatment of anaphylactic shock. Antihistamines also are effective in the treatment of certain extrapyramidal (dystonic) reactions and for relief of upper respiratory and sinus symptoms associated with allergic reactions.
3. Onset and Duration:
  - 3.1. Onset: Maximum effects 1 – 3 hours.
  - 3.2. Duration: 6 – 12 hours.
4. Indications:
  - 4.1. Moderate to severe allergic reactions (after epinephrine).
  - 4.2. Anaphylaxis.
  - 4.3. Acute extrapyramidal (dystonic) reactions.
5. Contraindications:
  - 5.1. Patients taking MAO inhibitors.
  - 5.2. Hypersensitivity.
  - 5.3. Narrow-angle glaucoma (relative).
  - 5.4. Newborns and nursing mothers.
6. Adverse Reactions:
  - 6.1. Dose-related drowsiness.
  - 6.2. Disturbed coordination.
  - 6.3. Hypotension.
  - 6.4. Palpitations.
  - 6.5. Tachycardia.
  - 6.6. Bradycardia.
  - 6.7. Thickening of bronchial secretions.
  - 6.8. Dry mouth and throat.
  - 6.9. Paradoxical excitement in children.
7. Drug Interactions:
  - 7.1. Central nervous system depressants may increase depressant effects.
  - 7.2. MAO inhibitors may prolong and intensify anticholinergic effects of antihistamines.
8. How Supplied:
  - 8.1. Parenteral: 10 and 15mg/ml vials, prefilled syringe.

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## JJ-8 DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL)

(continued)

### 9. Dosage and Administration:

#### 9.1. Adult:

9.1.1. The standard dose is 10 – 50mg IM, slow IV every 6 – 8 hours:

9.1.1.1. Maximum 400mg/day.

#### 9.2. Pediatrics greater than 10 kg:

9.2.1. 1.25mg/kg/dose every 6 hours.

9.2.2. Maximum dose 300mg/day.

### 10. Special Considerations:

10.1. Pregnancy Category C.

10.2. Use cautiously in patients with central nervous system depression or lower respiratory disease such as asthma.