

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

JJ-9 DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL)

Class:

- Antihistamine

Description:

- Diphenhydramine prevents 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.

Onset and Duration:

- Onset: Maximum effects 1-3 hours.
- Duration: 6-12 hours.

Indications:

- Moderate to severe allergic reactions (after epinephrine)
- Anaphylaxis
- Minor allergic reactions (urticaria)

Contraindications:

- Patients taking MAO inhibitors
- Hypersensitivity
- Narrow-angle glaucoma (relative)
- Newborns and nursing mothers
- Acute asthma

Adverse Reactions:

- Dose-related drowsiness
- Disturbed coordination
- Hypotension
- Palpitations
- Tachycardia
- Bradycardia
- Thickening of bronchial secretions
- Dry mouth and throat
- Paradoxical excitement in children

Drug Interactions:

- Central nervous system depressants may increase depressant effects.
- MAO inhibitors may prolong and intensify anticholinergic effects of antihistamines.

How Supplied:

- Parenteral: 10 and 15mg/mL vials, prefilled syringe.

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JJ-8 DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL) (continued)

Dosage and Administration:

- Adult:
 - The standard dose is 25-50mg IM, slow IV/IO/IM
- Pediatrics 2-12 years old:
 - 1-1.25mg/kg IV/IO/IM

Special Considerations:

- Pregnancy Category C.
- Use cautiously in patients with central nervous system depression or lower respiratory disease such as asthma.