

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) – 20.110

CLASS: A

PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Altered Mental Status, Anaphylaxis, Nausea & Vomiting, Poisoning/Overdoses

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

- A. Antihistamine which blocks action of histamines released from cells during an allergic reaction.
- B. Direct CNS effects which include stimulant, or more commonly, depressant depending on individual variation.
- C. Anticholinergic.

INDICATIONS:

- A. Allergic reaction
- B. Acute dystonic reactions to antipsychotic and antiemetic medications
- C. Adjunctive therapy for anaphylaxis.
- D. Chemical sedation adjunct for a combative patient.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Relative contraindication for pregnant or lactating females.

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:

- A. Sedation, blurred vision, anticholinergic effects.
- B. May enhance effects of alcohol or other depressants.
- C. Is NOT the first line drug for anaphylactic reactions.

ADULT DOSING:

Anaphylaxis, allergic reaction and sedation --
25-50 mg slow IV/IO push or IM

Extrapyramidal symptoms –
12.5- 25 mg slow IV/IO

PEDIATRIC DOSING:

Anaphylaxis, allergic reaction, and extrapyramidal symptoms -
1-2 mg/kg slow IV or IO push or IM to a maximum of 50 mg