



GENERIC NAME: DEXAMETHASONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE

BRAND NAME: Decadron

CLASS: synthetic adrenocorticoid/glucocorticoid with a predominance of

glucocorticoid action, anti-inflammatory, antiemetic

Mechanism of Action:

Improves lung function and myocardial performance: stabilization of lysosomal and cell membranes, inhibition of complement-induced granulocyte aggregation, rightward shift in oxygen-hemoglobin dissociation curve, inhibition of prostaglandin and leukotriene production, increase in surfactant production, decrease in pulmonary edema, relaxation of bronchospasm.

Indications and Field Use:

Reactive airway disease: Acute exacerbation of bronchial asthma
Anaphylaxis
Cerebral edema (non-traumatic)

Contraindications:

Systemic fungal infections Hypersensitivity to any component of dexamethasone, including sulfites Preterm infants Cerebral malaria

Adverse Reactions:

Sodium retention, fluid retention, potassium loss, hypokalemic alkalosis, hypertension, convulsions, hyperglycemia, myocardial rupture following recent myocardial infarction, Arrhythmia, bradycardia, cushing's syndrome, nausea , increased appetite, glucosuria, pulmonary edema.

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions: Dexamethasone is not compatible with benadryl or versed in IV tubing.

Adult Dosage:

Reactive Airway Disease, Anaphylaxis

8-24 mg

Cerebral Edema

1-5 mg/kg Pediatric Dosage:

Reactive Airway Disease, Anaphylaxis

0.25-0.5 mg/kg

Cerebral Edema

0.5-1.5 mg/kg Routes of Administration:

IV bolus, IM Onset of Action: 4-8 hours

Peak Effects:

6-12 hours

Duration of Action:

24-72 hours

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

20 mg/5 mL, 100 mg/25 mL

Arizona Drug Box Supply:

PARAMEDIC: Optional 8 mg