

AMIODARONE (CORDARONE)

Drug Classification: Antiarrhythmic

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

Acts directly on the myocardium to delay repolarization, prolong the action potential, slow the speed of electrical conduction, reduce the firing rate of the SA node, and slow conduction through accessory pathways.

Indications

- Ventricular fibrillation
- Pulseless ventricular tachycardia
- Ventricular tachycardia with a pulse (stable)
- PVCs that are frequent, coupled, multiform, and close-couples or runs of ventricular tachycardia that cause significant symptoms.
- Frequent ICD firing.

Contraindications

- Allergy or known hypersensitivity to amiodarone or its components including iodine.
- **Do not use in neonates.** There have been reports of fatal “gaspings syndrome” in neonates (children less than one month of age) following the administration of intravenous solutions containing the preservative benzyl alcohol. Symptoms include a striking onset of gasping respiration, hypotension, bradycardia, and cardiovascular collapse.

Cautions

- May cause hypotension, bradycardia and prolongation of the QT interval.
- Amiodarone may cause a worsening of existing arrhythmias or cause a new arrhythmia.
- May have negative inotropic effects.
- Use with caution in the renal failure patient as the half-life is long (40-60 days).
- May interact with beta-blockers, resulting in excessively slow heart rates.
- Draw up this medication slowly or it will foam and be unusable.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
<u>VF/Pulseless VT</u> 1. Administer an initial dose of 300 mg IV/IO push. 2. Give a second dose of 150 mg IV/IO push after	<u>VF/Pulseless VT</u> 1. Administer an initial dose of 5 mg/kg IV/IO push. 2. Give a second dose of 2.5 mg/kg IV/IO push

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
<p>6-10 minutes.</p> <p><u>Stable VT with a pulse</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expel 3 mL of fluid from a saline flush.2. Draw 150 mg slowly into the flush.3. Administer 150 mg over 10 minutes (1 mL/minute).4. May repeat in 10 minutes if needed.	<p>after 6-10 minutes.</p> <p><u>Stable VT with a pulse</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administer 5 mg/kg (up to 150 mg) mixed in 10 mL normal saline over 10 minutes.2. May repeat in 10 minutes if needed.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

- Burning at the IV site
- Hypotension and/or bradycardia
- This medication can have an irritating effect on veins and soft tissues. Be careful not to allow infusions to infiltrate into the soft tissue.

NOTES

REFERENCE GUIDELINE:

2C Ventricular Fibrillation/Pulseless V-Tach

2I Wide Complex Tachycardia