

DILTIAZEM (CARDIZEM)

Drug Classification: Calcium channel blocker

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

The therapeutic effects of this medication are believed to be related to its ability to inhibit the influx of calcium ions during membrane depolarization of cardiac and vascular smooth muscle.

Indications

- Rapid ventricular rate in atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter.
- Symptomatic PSVT that returns or does not convert with administration of **adenosine (Adenocard)**.

Contraindications

- Severe hypotension or cardiogenic shock
- Hypersensitivity to the medication
- Atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter associated with an accessory bypass tract such as in Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW).
- Ventricular tachycardia - administration of calcium channel blockers to patients with wide complex tachycardia (QRS > 0.12 seconds) can result in hemodynamic deterioration and ventricular fibrillation.
- Presence of second or third degree AV block, except in the presence of a functioning ventricular pacemaker.
- Presence of sick sinus syndrome except in the presence of a functioning ventricular pacemaker.

Cautions

- May cause hypotension. Be prepared to provide cardiovascular support.
- PVCs may be present on conversion of PSVT to sinus rhythm. They are typically transient and benign.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administer 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO over 2 minutes. A second dose of 0.35 mg/kg may be given after 15 minutes, if needed.2. For patients greater than 65 years of age or with systolic blood pressure less than 100 mmHg, use a 12.5 mg initial dose with a 12.5 mg repeat dose if needed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administer 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO over 2 minutes. A second dose of 0.35 mg/kg may be given after 15 minutes, if needed.

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Hypotension (more common in the elderly), headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea and vomiting

NOTES

REFERENCE GUIDELINE:

2H Paroxysmal Supraventricular Tachycardia (PSVT)

2J Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter