

PANCURONIUM

Drug Classification: Long acting non-depolarizing neuromuscular blocking agent

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

This medication competes with and displaces acetylcholine on the neuromuscular junctions. It is a non-depolarizing agent, meaning it will not cause muscle fasciculation when administered. It is longer acting than **vecuronium (Norcuron)** with peak effects lasting 35 to 45 minutes. Onset of action is about 1 minute with intubation conditions present in 2 to 3 minutes. This medication has a non-refrigerated shelf life of 6 months.

Indications

- Continued paralysis after confirmed successful endotracheal intubation as part of post-intubation management.
- May be used as a first line paralytic only when **succinylcholine (Anectine)** is contraindicated.

Contraindications

- Known allergy or hypersensitivity to this medication or bromides.
- Status seizure.

Cautions

- May cause tachycardia in patients with preexisting heart disease.
- Due to vagolytic activity, this medication may cause an increase in blood pressure.
- **Atropine** may need to be administered prior to or concurrently with this medication to counteract any cholinergic side effects.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
1. Administer 1mg/kg IV/IO push ¹ .	1. Administer 1mg/kg IV/IO push ¹ .
2. Repeat as needed.	2. Repeat as needed.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Tachycardia, hypertension, excessive salivation, rash, itching

NOTES

¹ This medication has no amnesic effects. Ensure patients are adequately sedated prior to administration.

REFERENCE GUIDELINE: 7F Advanced Airway Management, 7F1 Drug Facilitated Airway Management