

RACEMIC EPINEPHRINE

Drug Classification: Sympathomimetic

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

This medication stimulates both alpha- and beta-adrenergic receptors, with a slight preference for the beta₂ receptors in the lungs. This results in bronchodilation and a decrease in mucus secretion. It also has some effect in relieving the subglottic edema associated with croup when administered by inhalation. Its duration is 1 to 3 hours.

Indications

- Symptoms of croup.

Contraindications

- Patients with a potential for tachyarrhythmias or hypertension.
- Known allergy or hypersensitivity to the medication.

Cautions

- Many patients will experience rebound worsening 30-60 minutes after the initial treatment and the effects of the drug have worn off. As a result, patient's being treated with this medication require transport to the hospital.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

1. Combine one unit dose (0.5 mL of 2.25% solution) with 3 mL normal saline and administer via nebulizer.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Restlessness, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, headache, tachycardia, hypertension, bronchospasm

NOTES

REFERENCE GUIDELINE:

3A Upper Airway Obstruction