

VECURONIUM

Drug Classification: Non-depolarizing neuromuscular blocking agent

BACKGROUND

Pharmacodynamics

This medication is an intermediate-acting non-depolarizing skeletal muscle relaxant structurally similar to Pancuronium. It demonstrates negligible histamine release and therefore has minimal direct effect on the cardiovascular system. It inhibits neuromuscular transmission by competitive binding with acetylcholine to motor endplate receptors. Onset is less than 1 minute; peak effects in 3 to 5 minutes with a duration of 25 to 40 minutes.

Indications

- As a first line paralytic for DFAM if **succinylcholine (Anectine)** is contraindicated **and** Vecuronium is not contraindicated.
- To maintain neuromuscular blockade and skeletal muscle paralysis after intubation.

Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity to this medication or other neuromuscular blocking agents.
- Status seizure
- Suspected stroke
- Head trauma

Cautions

- This medication has no analgesic or sedative effects. Benzodiazepines must be administered for sedation.

DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION

ADULT	PEDIATRICS (less than 60 kg)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer 0.1mg/kg IV/IO push. 2. Repeat as needed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer 0.1mg/kg IV/IO push. 2. Repeat as needed.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS

- Anaphylaxis, transient hypotension, bronchospasm, tachycardia, arrhythmia, increased pulmonary vascular resistance, malignant hyperthermia, hypertension

NOTES

REFERENCE PROCEDURE:

7F1 Drug Facilitated Airway Management