


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: DIPHENHYDRAMINE (BENADRYL®)
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Diphenhydramine

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Antihistamine
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Prevents the physiologic actions of histamine by preventing histamines from reaching H₁ and H₂ receptors.
 - b. The benefits of antihistamines are only symptomatic relief.
 - c. Has anticholinergic effects as well.
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. Moderate to severe allergic reactions (after epinephrine)
 - b. Acute extrapyramidal effects
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Lower respiratory diseases such as asthma (relative)
 - b. CNS depression
 - c. Narrow angle glaucoma (relative)
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. May cause the stopping of lactation in breast feeding patients
 - b. COPD
 - i. Dries mucosal secretions
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Sedation
 - b. Disturbed coordination
 - c. Hypotension
 - d. Palpitations
 - e. Tachycardia or bradycardia
 - f. Thickening of bronchial secretions
 - g. Dry mouth and throat
 - h. Paradoxical excitation
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
 - a. Immediate onset
 - b. Six to eight hour duration
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
 - a. IV irritation if pushed too fast