


Section: Drug Reference  
Subject: EPINEPHRINE  
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## Epinephrine

1. CLASSIFICATION
  - a. Sympathomimetic
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
  - a. Stimulates alpha, beta<sub>1</sub>, and beta<sub>2</sub> receptors
  - b. Produces a rapid increase in blood pressure, ventricular contractility, and heart rate
  - c. Causes vasoconstriction in the arterioles of the skin, mucosa, and splanchnic areas
  - d. Increase conduction through the AV node
3. INDICATIONS
  - a. Anaphylaxis (vasoconstriction and dilation of bronchioles)
  - b. Cardiac arrest (vasoconstriction)
  - c. Reactive airway diseases (dilation of the bronchioles in asthma, COPD, etc.)
  - d. Symptomatic bradycardia/blocks
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
  - a. Hypovolemic shock
  - b. Coronary insufficiency (relative)
  - c. Chemicals that increase catecholamine sensitivity (inhaling hydrocarbons lowers the threshold for V-Fib) (relative)
5. PRECAUTIONS
  - a. Use with caution in elderly patients
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
  - a. Nervousness, jittery
  - b. Hypertension
  - c. PVCs
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
  - a. Duration of action is 5 minutes
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
  - a. IV administration (slow to patients with a pulse, 1 – 2 minutes)
  - b. May increase MvO<sub>2</sub> in older and cardiac patients
  - c. Danger of repeated doses in anaphylaxis
  - d. Not primary treatment of bronchospastic disease
  - e. SQ dosage in anaphylactic shock may not be effective if poor peripheral perfusion