

PROPOFOL

Propofol acts via GABA receptors and has hypnotic, anxiolytic, and amnesic properties but no analgesic properties. It can cause cardiovascular and respiratory depression in sick patients, so bolus doses should be used cautiously. It has no active metabolites and its metabolism is little affected by organ dysfunction. Propofol probably has lower tendency to cause delirium than benzodiazepines. In high doses propofol can cause a serious complication, the “propofol infusion syndrome (PRIS)”

PROPOFOL			
RECEPTOR TYPE	Gaba Receptors	α_2 -Receptors	Opioid Receptors
Receptor type	✓		
ONSET	Rapid (< 1 minute)	Intermediate (1-3 minutes)	Slow (> 3 minutes)
Rate of Onset	✓		
Rate of Offset		✓	
EFFECT	Strong	Weak	None
Sedative effect (hypnosis and anxiolysis)	✓		
Amnesic effect	✓		
Analgesic effect			✓
RISKS	None	Lower Risk	Higher Risk
Cardiovascular effects (low pulse and/or blood pressure)			✓
Respiratory depression			✓
Potential to cause delirium		✓	
Active metabolites and/or accumulation	✓		
Potential toxic effects		✓	
COST	Low	Intermediate	High
Cost		✓	