



El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: July 1, 2020

Medication Profile

Adenosine (Adenocard)

Class:

Antiarrhythmic

Action:

Adenosine slows electrical conduction time through the AV node, and may interrupt reentry pathways through AV node. Adenosine is a “purine nucleoside,” a naturally occurring nucleic acid.

Onset: Immediate

Peak: Immediate

Duration: Seconds

Adult Administration:

6mg rapid IV/IO push with 10ml NS flush

Repeat 12mg followed with 10ml NS flush if needed. May repeat x 1 (Total dose 30mg)

Pediatric Administration:

0.1mg/kg rapid IV/IO push followed with 5ml NS flush (Max dose 6mg). May repeat in 3 minutes at 0.02mg/kg followed with 5ml NS flush (Max dose 12mg).

Indications:

Conversion of PSVT to sinus rhythm, including PSVT in Wolfe-Parkinson-White syndrome

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity/allergy
Bradycardia, second degree and third degree heart block, or sick-sinus syndrome

Side Effects:

CNS: Light-headedness, headache

CV: Conduction delay (asystole) for several seconds, chest pain, transient arrhythmias (V-tach, V-fib, Torsades de pointes), palpitations, diaphoresis

RESP: Dyspnea

GI: Nausea, metallic taste may be noticed by patient

Notes:

- Caution in asthmatic patients – potential bronchoconstriction
- Adenosine should be given as a vigorous rapid IV push over 1-second with a rapid IV flush of normal saline.