

El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services



Agency Quick Reference

Revised Date: June 19, 2023

Medication Profile

Ketamine (Ketalar)

Class:

Dissociative anesthetic

Action:

N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist with a potent anesthetic effect. Induces a trance-like state while providing pain relief, sedation, and memory loss.

Onset: 1-2 minutes

Peak: Immediate

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Adult and Pediatric Administration:

0.3mg/kg IV/IO, mixed in a 100mL and infused over 10-15 minutes (Max single dose = 30mg)

- or -

0.5mg/kg IN/IM (Max single dose = 50mg).

May repeat every 15 minutes x 2 prn pain. (Max dose for all routes combined = 100mg)

Indications:

Severe pain

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity/allergy
GCS < 15
RR < 12
SBP < 90
Pregnancy

Side Effects:

CV: Hypertension, tachycardia, arrhythmias

CNS: Seizure like activity

Other: Laryngospasm, dysphoria, emergence reactions

Pregnancy:

Unknown

Notes:

- Fast IV administration is more likely to cause side effects
- Infuse IV over 10-15 minutes by mixing in a small “piggyback” bag
- May be used for severe pain (similar to fentanyl) or for moderate pain that is not managed by Acetaminophen or Nitrous Oxide (if supplied).