



14. DIPHENHYDRAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (BENADRYL)


a) Pharmacology

Antihistamine

b) Pharmacokinetics

- (1) Effect begins within 15 minutes of IV dose.
- (2) Peak effect 1–4 hours
- (3) Metabolized by the liver
- (4) The half-life ranges from 2–10 hours.

c) Indications

- (1) Allergic reaction
- (2) Anaphylaxis
- (3)  Dystonic reactions


d) Contraindications

Known allergy to diphenhydramine


e) Adverse Effects

Drowsiness, loss of coordination, blurred vision, headache, hypotension, tachycardia, palpitations, thickening of bronchial secretions leading to chest tightness, and wheezing

f) Precautions - Should be used with caution in patients with:

- (1) Severe vomiting
- (2) Alcohol intoxication
- (3)  Medical consultation required for:
 - (a) Asthma
 - (b) Nursing mothers

g) Dosage

- (1) Adult: Administer 25–50 mg SLOW IVP or IM
- (2) Pediatric: Administer 1 mg/kg SLOW IV/IO or IM
- (3)  Medical consultation required for administration in mild allergic reaction.