



NEONATAL MEDICATION GUIDELINE

Suxamethonium

Scope (Staff): Nursing, Medical and Pharmacy Staff

Scope (Area): KEMH NICU, PCH NICU, NETS WA

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HIGH RISK Medication 

Inadvertent use in patients without the availability of medical staff skilled in airway support can lead to respiratory arrest, permanent harm or death

Description

Depolarising, short acting neuromuscular blocker and skeletal muscle relaxant/paralytic

Presentation

Prefilled Syringe: 10mg/2mL (KEMH)

Ampoule: 100mg/2mL

Storage

Prefilled Syringe: Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Ampoule: Refrigerate, do not freeze. Store at 2°C to 8°C

Indication

Elective endotracheal intubation - premedication

Dose

Elective endotracheal intubation

IV:

2mg/kg immediately prior to intubation

May be repeated if required – repeated dosing increases the risk of bradycardia

Must be accompanied by adequate analgesia or sedation

Preparation

Use prefilled syringe if available. If prefilled syringe is unavailable, prepare the following using the ampoule:

IV

Dilution: Take 1mL (50mg) from ampoule and dilute to 10mL with compatible fluid.

Concentration is 50mg/10mL. Final concentration is 5mg/mL

Administration**IV bolus**

Give over 10 to 30 seconds

Compatible Fluids

Sodium chloride 0.9%, Glucose 5%, Glucose 10%

Y-Site Compatibility

Refer to KEMH Neonatal Medication Guideline: [Y-Site IV Compatibility in Neonates](#)

Side Effects

Common: hypertension, hypotension, bradycardia

Serious: malignant hyperthermia, hyperkalaemia

Comments

Very rapid onset (30–60 seconds) and short duration of action (3–5 minutes) after IV administration.

Continuous administration over a prolonged period of time may result in irreversible blockade (phase II block).









Should not be used without additional sedation.

References

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