

ATROPINE SULPHATE

ACTIONS AND USES

Atropine blocks the muscarinic effects of acetylcholine on the parasympathetic nervous system. It prevents bradycardia due to vagal stimulation. It reduces bronchial and gastric secretions and reduces GI mobility. It is used to correct (vagal) bradycardia of uncertain origin which is unresponsive to improved oxygenation. It can be used to counter bradycardia and increased salivation caused by suxamethonium administration but ensure that the baby is adequately ventilated.

DOSAGE

For Emergency:

IV : 15 microgram/kg/dose; repeat every 10-15 minutes to a maximum total of 40 microgram/kg/day.

For bradycardia of uncertain origin:

IV/ORAL : 20-90microgram/kg/dose every 6 hours.

ADMINISTRATION

By slow IV bolus less than 1 minute. Flush line before and after administration with 0.5ml sodium chloride 0.9%.

RECONSTITUTION

Atropine injection is available as a solution of 600 micrograms/ml in a 1ml vial therefore reconstitution is not necessary but it has to be diluted further in order to get a suitable dose. An oral solution containing 100 microgram/ml is available from pharmacy.

Atropine injection 100 micrograms/ml.

Dilute 1ml of atropine 600 microgram/ml with 5ml of sodium chloride 0.9% and mix well.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not mix or infuse with phenobarbitone or flucloxacillin.

STORAGE

Opened ampoules should be discarded immediately. Diluted solution should be used immediately. The oral solution is stable for 7 days when stored in the refrigerator. Unopened ampoules are stored in the IV drug cupboard and resuscitation trays at room temperature.

MONITORING

Monitor heart rate, blood pressure and temperature. Cardiac arrhythmias can occur about 2 minutes after IV dose. Observe for signs of decreased bowel activity, i.e. abdominal distention. Salivary and bronchial secretions will be reduced. Use with caution in poorly controlled BDP babies and in the presence of oesophageal reflux. The onset of action of many orally administered drugs will be delayed. It causes mydriasis and photophobia.