

Antiemetic Protocol

revised October 2008



Preamble

Patients frequently experience nausea and vomiting. Administration of an antiemetic may relieve symptoms and reduce the risk of vomiting and subsequent aspiration. Dimenhydrinate is a suitable antiemetic agent for intravenous administration the prehospital setting.

Requirements

1. Fully licensed Technician-Paramedic.
2. Certification in IV cannulation protocol by the Medical Director.
3. Certification in antiemetic protocol by the Medical Director.

Indications

1. Significant nausea and / or vomiting in a patient with an established IV line.

Contraindications

1. Patient age less than 16 years.
2. Patient does not have an intravenous line.
3. Known adverse reaction to drug.
4. Hypotension or other evidence of shock.
5. Glasgow Coma Scale score less than 15.
6. Evidence of head injury, cerebrovascular accident, respiratory impairment, of drug or alcohol ingestion.
7. History of glaucoma or symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy.
8. Pregnancy.

Drug Dose and Frequency

dimenhydrinate (gravol™)

25 mg IV as an initial dose

repeat IV dose may be given in 15-30 mins prn

maximum total dose: 50 mg

*in the setting of prolonged interfacility transfers (>2 hours), an additional dose (25 mg IV) may be administered, if needed, under the direction of physician on-line medical control

Procedure

1. Perform patient assessment, record vital signs, level of consciousness, and oxygen saturation.
2. Assess that patient meets criteria for this protocol.
3. Ensure there are no contraindications to use of this protocol.
4. Administer oxygen as required.
5. Administer dimenhydrinate through established intravenous line.
6. Initiate transport, unless other emergency condition required immediate treatment.
7. Monitor and reassess patient en route.
 - observe for respiratory depression: be prepared to assist ventilations.
8. Notify receiving facility of patient's condition and medication used.

Documentation Requirements

The following information must be documented on the patient care report form:

1. Patient's presenting signs and symptoms, including vital signs, level of consciousness, and oxygen saturation.
2. Indications for protocol use.
3. Dose(s), time(s), and effect(s) of dimenhydrinate used.
4. Repeat assessment and vital signs, as indicated.

5. Changes from baseline, if any, that occur during treatment or transport.
6. Signature and license number of EMS personnel performing any transfer of function skills.

Certification Requirements

1. Attend in-depth lectures on pathophysiology of nausea and vomiting, including appropriate use of antiemetics.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the pharmacology, mechanism of action, and indications and contraindications for use of dimenhydrinate.
3. Pass a written examination.
4. Certification is by the Medical Director.

Recertification Requirements

1. Review class and recertification is done every 12 months.
2. A record will be kept to document all cases where this protocol is used.

Decertification

1. Decertification is at the discretion of the Medical Director or the Provincial Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.

Quality Assurance Requirements

1. Appropriate quality assurance policies must be in place. The Medical Director or designate must review all instances where this protocol is used. As a minimum, the following must be assessed:
 - i) appropriateness of implementation
 - ii) adherence to protocol
 - iii) any deviation from the protocol
 - iv) corrective measures taken, if indicated
2. Yearly statistics for protocol use compiled and forwarded to Emergency Medical Services, Manitoba Health & Healthy Living.