

DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl)

ACTION: Antihistamine

- Antagonizes effects of histamine in allergy.
- Decreases itching, edema, bronchoconstriction and vasodilation.
- Antagonizes acetylcholine receptors resulting in resolution of dystonia caused by antipsychotic medications.

INDICATIONS:

- Anaphylaxis.
- Allergic reactions.
- Dystonic (extrapyramidal) neuromuscular reactions.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Diphenhydramine can potentiate other CNS depressants
- Relative contraindication in pregnant or lactating females

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Drowsiness and sedation
- Hypotension
- Palpitations
- Tachycardia
- Headache or blurred vision
- Anticholinergic effects

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

⇒ 25 - 50 mg IVP, IM or IO (up to max. 50 mg).

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

⇒ 1 mg/kg IVP, IO or IM (up to max. 25 mg).

NOTES:

- Consider IM administration of Diphenhydramine in patients who are perfusing well.
- Consider IV administration of Diphenhydramine with severe allergic reactions/anaphylaxis.

*Effective: 11/01/17
Supersedes: 03/01/15*