Atropine Sulfate (Mark I Kit, AtroPen Auto-Injector)

A. ACTIONS:

Atropine is a potent parasympatholytic that bonds to acetylcholine receptors thus diminishing the actions of acetylcholine. Atropine stops the effect of the nerve agent by blocking the effects of over-stimulation and effectively counters the actions of the nerve agent at nerve receptors. Atropine also relieves the smooth muscle constriction in the lungs (wheezing, respiratory distress) and GI tract (diarrhea, cramps) and dries up respiratory tract secretions.

B. INDICATIONS:

The auto-injector for Atropine is specifically indicated for intramuscular use in conjunction with Pralidoxime Chloride for the treatment of poisoning by organophosphates or nerve agents (Sarin gas, VX gas) having anticholinesterase activity.

POISONING SIGNS ARE:

Rhinorrhea   Pinpoint Pupils   Vomiting
Salvation    Tearing (lacrimation)  Bradycardia
Urination    Airway Secretions    Abdominal Cramping

None when used in the management of severe organophosphate or nerve gas poisoning.

D. SIDE EFFECTS AND ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Victims of organophosphate/nerve gas poisoning can tolerate and may require large doses of Atropine. Signs of atropinization (flushing, pupil dilation, dry mouth, tachycardia) are the end point of treatment. Reduction of secretions is most important.

E. WARNINGS:

It is important that the patient be adequately oxygenated and ventilated prior to using Atropine, as Atropine may precipitate ventricular fibrillation in a poorly oxygenated patient.
Atropine Sulfate (Mark I Kit, AtroPen Auto-Injector) (cont.)

F. DOSAGE:

**Adults:** For optimal effects, Atropine and Pralidoxime Chloride should be administered together as soon as possible after exposure. Depending on the severity of symptoms, immediately administer 1 Atropine auto-injector, followed by 1 Pralidoxime Chloride auto-injector.

Atropine must be given first until its effects become apparent and only then should Pralidoxime Chloride be administered. If nerve agent symptoms are still present after 15 minutes, repeat injections. If symptoms still exist after an additional 15 minutes, repeat injections for third time. If symptoms remain after third set of injections, do not give any more injections. **If symptoms are severe, 3 Atropine auto-injectors and 3 Pralidoxime Chloride auto-injectors should be administered in rapid succession (stacked)**

*See directions for use and picture below.*

**Pediatrics:** Safety and effectiveness in the pediatric patient has not been established. Do not use in the patient < 8 years of age.

G. HOW SUPPLIED:

Atropine is supplied pre-filled and pre-measured in the auto-injector, 2mg/2ml.

**Directions for Use:**

1. Remove yellow safety cap.

2. Place green end against outer thigh and push hard until the injector functions.

3. Hold firmly in place for 10 seconds, and then remove. Massage the injection area.

4. Dispose of properly. Place in sharps container or bend needle into a hook.