

Diphenhydramine

(Allerdryl, Allernix, Benadryl)

Indication(s): Hostile Violent Patient (Haloperidol Induced Dystonia).

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to diphenhydramine or acute asthma. Do not use in neonates.

Precautions: Use with caution in the elderly and in patients with urinary obstruction. may cause paradoxical excitation in children.

Drug Interactions: May enhance the CNS depressant effect of other CNS Depressants (Monitor). May enhance the adverse/toxic effect of other Anticholinergic Agents (Monitor). Anticholinergic agents such as diphenhydramine may decrease the absorption of nitroglycerin, specifically, they may decrease the dissolution of sublingual nitroglycerin tablets, possibly impairing or slowing nitroglycerin absorption (Monitor).

Pharmacology: Antihistamine, Onset: < 1 hour
Duration: 6-8 hours

Adverse Effects: Hypotension, tachycardia, palpitations, drowsiness, dizziness, coordination difficulties, headache, nervousness, paradoxical excitement, insomnia, euphoria, confusion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dry mouth and mucous membranes, urinary retention, urinary frequency, difficulty urinating, tremor, paresthesia, blurry vision.

Dosage and Administration: Hostile/Violent Patient: 50mg IM/IV/PO q6-8 hr PRN (Max dose 400 mg/day). Elderly (> 60 yo): Decrease dose by ½, as this population can be more susceptible to side effects.