

# HNE AREA Intensive Care

Approved For: JHH and CMN ICU's

## ATROPINE

**Trade Name:** Atropine sulphate

**Presentation:**

**Indications:** To block muscarinic effects due to excessive acetylcholine in organophosphate poisoning.

The most significant features of organophosphate poisoning can be summarised by the mnemonic DUMBELS.

**D** Diarrhoea

**U** Urination

**M** Miosis

**B** Bronchospasm

**E** Emesis

**L** Lacrimation

**S** Salivation

**Administration:** **Bolus:** 2 – 20 mg every 5 minutes IV

**Infusion:** ALL Atropine infusions are prepared NEAT.

50 x 1.2mg amps = 60 mg atropine/50ml syringe = 1.2mg/ml

**Infusion Rate:** 8-17mls/hr (10 – 20 mg/h) or more is required in severe poisoning. Starting rate is the amount needed to ameliorate symptoms as a bolus  
**Bolus:** 2 – 20 mg every 5 minutes IV

Hypotension and tachycardia are usually due to low vascular resistance. In severe cases a PA catheter and measurements of peripheral vascular resistance may be required (Buckley et al; 1994). Vasodilatation should respond to atropine rather than adrenaline or dopamine.

**Dose** End point of atropinisation is the absence of oropharyngeal secretions. .

**Precautions** All patients receiving adrenaline infusions require central venous and arterial monitoring. At anything more than 6 mls per hour, problems with hypotension are likely when syringes are changed, efficient changing or the use of two pumps is indicated

**Adverse Effects:** Hypersensitivity reactions, flushing, urinary retention, mydriasis, photophobia, rash, blurred vision, paradoxical bradycardia, tachycardia, reduced perspiration, confusion, coma, tachypnoea. Less commonly, the development of angina in patients with known cardiac disease.

**Contraindications:** Tachycardia. Narrow angle glaucoma and obstructive diseases of the GI tract.

**Compatibilities:** **Fluids:** N/S, G5W, G10W, G5W-½ N/S, Hartmanns.  
Addition to infusion fluids is not recommended.

**Incompatible in solut with:** adrenaline, ampicillin, flucloxacillin, heparin, metaraminol, noradrenaline, promazine, thiopentone, sodium bicarbonate, tetracyclines, Vit B & C

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Created: 01-Jan-07 by Dr K Ellem Reviewed: 01-Jan-07 by Dr K Ellem Guideline to be reviewed before : 01-Sep-09  
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