



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

Medication Profile

Adenosine
(Adenocard)

Class:

Antiarrhythmic

Action:

Adenosine slows electrical conduction time through the AV node, and may interrupt reentry pathways through AV node. Adenosine is a “purine nucleoside,” a naturally occurring nucleic acid.

Onset: Immediate

Peak: Immediate

Duration: Seconds

Indications:

Conversion of PSVT to sinus rhythm, including PSVT in Wolfe-Parkinson-White syndrome

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity/allergy
Bradycardia, second degree and third degree heart block, or sick-sinus syndrome

Side Effects:

CNS: Light-headedness, headache

CV: Conduction delay (asystole) for several seconds, chest pain, transient arrhythmias (V-tach, V-fib, Torsades de pointes), palpitations, diaphoresis

RESP: Dyspnea

GI: Nausea, metallic taste may be noticed by patient

Notes:

- Caution in asthmatic patients – potential bronchoconstriction
- Adenosine should be given as a vigorous rapid IV push over 1-second with a rapid IV flush of normal saline (20 cc).

This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

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