



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

Medication Profile

Atropine

Class:

Anticholinergic (Parasympatholytic), Antiarrhythmic

Action:

Atropine is a potent parasympatholytic and is used to increase the heart rate in hemodynamically significant bradycardias. Atropine acts by blocking acetylcholine receptors, thus inhibiting parasympathetic stimulation. Atropine has positive chronotropic properties, and little or no inotropic effect. It plays an important role as an antidote in organophosphate poisonings.

Onset: Immediate

Peak: 2-4 minutes

Duration: 4-hours

Indications:

Hemodynamically significant
Bradycardias
Bradycardia secondary to ROSC
Organophosphate poisoning or
nerve gas poisoning

Contraindications:

Unstable cardio vascular status in acute
hemorrhage
Tachycardia
Hypersensitivity
Narrow-angle glaucoma

Side Effects:

CV: Palpitations, tachycardia, hypertension
CNS: Headache, nervousness, weakness, dizziness
GI: Dry mouth with thirst and dysphagia, constipation, heartburn
INTEG: Flushed, dry skin
EENT: Blurred vision, photophobia
GU: Urinary retention

Notes:

- Atropine may worsen bradycardia associated with second-degree type II and third-degree AV blocks.

This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

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