



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

Medication Profile

Epinephrine (Adrenalin)

Class:

Natural Catecholamine/Sympathomimetic

Action:

Potent catecholamine with Alpha and Beta effects; Epinephrine causes vasoconstriction in the arterioles of the skin, mucosa, and splanchnic areas, and antagonizes the effects of histamine.

Alpha Effects:

Increased respiratory tidal volume and vital capacity by vasoconstriction of arterioles in lungs (↓ edema)

Vasoconstriction in skin, kidneys, stomach, intestines, liver and pancreas

Beta Effects:

Increased heart rate, force of contraction, AV-node conduction, spontaneous contraction, cardiac output, tidal volume, coronary blood flow, O₂ consumption, myocardial irritability.

Bronchodilation

Vasodilation of circulation to heart and skeletal muscle

Onset: IV Immediate
IM 6-10 minutes

Peak: IV 5-minutes
IM 30 minutes

Duration: Varies

Indications:

Anaphylaxis
Severe hypotension SBP < 70
secondary to beta blocker OD
Symptomatic bradycardia – pediatrics
Medical cardiac arrest
Severe SOB secondary to reactive
airway disease (COPD, asthma etc...)

Contraindications:

Traumatic cardiac arrest

Side Effects:

CV: Tachycardia, palpitations, chest pain, hypertension, V-tach/V-fib
CNS: Headache, tremors, anxiety, dizziness, restlessness, convulsions
GI: Nausea, vomiting, anorexia, cramps
INTEG: Pallor, flushing, sweating, painful blanching at SQ injection site

This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.



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Notes:

- Use caution in patients with cardiac ventricular dysrhythmias, pregnancy, severe hypertension, coronary artery disease, tachy dysrhythmias, hypovolemic shock, chest pain of cardiac origin, or greater than 70-years old.