

Medication: Dimenhydrinate	PDN: 6921.03	Last Updated: May 23, 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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DIMENHYDRINATE (Gravol)

1.0 Classification

- Antihistamine
- Anti-nauseant/anti-emetic
- Anticholinergic

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Dimenhydrinate is a histamine antagonist with anticholinergic properties which results in the reduction of vomiting

3.0 Indications

- Nausea or vomiting
- Vertigo (“room spinning”)

4.0 Contraindications

- Altered or depressed LOC

5.0 Precautions

- Use cautiously in pediatric and geriatric population as they are more prone to adverse effects

6.0 Route

- May be given IV or IM

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 25 mg IV over 30 seconds OR 25-50 mg IM (according to age and size) repeat x 1 in 20 minutes if symptoms persist

Pediatric

- 1 mg/kg IV (maximum 25 mg) over 30 seconds or IM repeat x 1 in 20 minutes if symptoms persist

8.0 Supplied

- 5 mL vial of 10 mg/mL (this formulation will be phased out)
- 1 mL ampoule of 50 mg/mL

9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Hypotension
- Drowsiness
- Pain/burning at IV site
- Delirium
- Anticholinergic effects (urinary retention, dry mouth, etc.)

11.0 Special notes

- To administer IV dimenhydrinate using the 1 mL ampoule: dilute 1 mL ampoule of dimenhydrinate with 9 mL of normal saline to produce a 5 mg/mL solution; do not dilute to administer IM
- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

12.0 References

- Abdominal Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- EENT + Dental Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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