

Medication: Ketorolac	PDN: 6955.05	Last Updated: August 21 2025	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Tanya Fraser*	Page 1 of 2
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KETOROLAC

1.0 Classification

- NSAID

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Peripherally acts as an analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and anti-pyretic.
- Inhibition of cyclooxygenase (COX) enzyme blocking the production of pain and fever mediating prostaglandins.

3.0 Indications

- Moderate to severe acute pain associated with:
 - Burns
 - Cancer related pain
 - Musculoskeletal neck or back pain
 - Renal colic with a prior history of same

4.0 Contraindications

- Patients less than 5 years of age
- Hypersensitivity to ASA or NSAIDs
- Patients on anticoagulants [e.g., Coumadin (warfarin), Pradaxa (dabigatran), Xarelto (rivaroxaban)]
- Current active bleeding
- Stroke or TBI in last 24 hours
- Major trauma
- Peptic ulcer disease or history of GI bleeding
- NSAID taken in past 6 hours (not including ASA)
- Pregnancy
- Labour and delivery patients
- Renal insufficiency
- Solitary kidney

5.0 Precautions

- Administer with extreme caution in patients over 65, screen carefully for the above contraindications that will be prevalent.
- Administer with caution in patients with asthma, may cause bronchospasm; ask the patient if they have a history of this.

6.0 Route

- May be given IV or IM

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 10 mg IV/IM once (no repeat dose)

Pediatric

- 0.2 mg/kg IV/IM, max 10 mg once (no repeat dose)

8.0 Supplied

- 10 mg in 1 mL ampules

9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse Effects

- Hemorrhagic stroke
- GI upset
- GI bleeding
- Renal failure
- Rash
- Edema

11.0 Special Notes

- Ketorolac can be given in conjunction with opioids and may reduce the amount of opioids a patient requires.
- Provides an alternative to opioid analgesia in the appropriate context.
- If the patient can swallow, and they are not vomiting, consider ibuprofen as a potential alternative.
- There are approximately 20 NSAID medications. The following lists a few that are commonly purchased over the counter or prescribed:

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| ▪ ibuprofen | ▪ naproxen | ▪ diclofenac |
| ▪ celecoxib | ▪ indomethacin | ▪ meloxicam |

- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

12.0 References

- Pain Management Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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