**Atracurium**

**Class:** Neuromuscular blocking agent, nondepolarizing.

**Indications:** Adjunct to general anesthesia to facilitate endotracheal intubation and to relax skeletal muscles during surgery; to facilitate mechanical ventilation in ICU patients; does not relieve pain or produce sedation

**Available dosage form in the hospital:** Solution, Intravenous, as besylate: 2.5 ml ampule, 50 mg ampule.

**Trade Names:**

**Dosage:** For I.V. administration only (not to be used I.M.): Dose to effect; doses must be individualized due to interpatient variability

**Adjunct to surgical anesthesia (neuromuscular blockade):**

*I.V. (bolus):* 0.4-0.5 mg/kg, then 0.08-0.1 mg/kg 20-45 minutes after initial dose to maintain neuromuscular block; repeat dose at 15- to 25-minute intervals

Initial dose after succinylcholine for intubation (balanced anesthesia): 0.2-0.4 mg/kg

Pretreatment/priming: I.V.: 10% of intubating dose given 3-5 minutes before initial dose

*I.V. continuous infusion:* Initial: 9-10 mcg/kg/minute at initial signs of recovery from bolus dose; block is usually maintained by a rate of 5-9 mcg/kg/minute under balanced anesthesia.

**ICU neuromuscular blockade:** I.V.: Initial (bolus) 0.4-0.5 mg/kg, followed by I.V. continuous infusion at an initial rate of 5-10 mcg/kg/minute; block is usually maintained by rate of 11-13 mcg/kg/minute (rates for pediatric patients may be higher).

**Renal impairment:** No dosage adjustment required.

**Hepatic impairment:** No dosage adjustment required.

**Common side effects:** Mild, rare, and generally suggestive of histamine release.

Cardiovascular: Flushing

**Pregnancy Risk Factor:** C