

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