Baclofen

Class: Skeletal muscle relaxant

Indications: Treatment of reversible spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis or spinal cord lesions

Orphan drug: Intrathecal: Treatment of intractable spasticity caused by spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, and other spinal disease (spinal ischemia or tumor, transverse myelitis, cervical spondylosis, degenerative myelopathy).

Unlabeled: Intractable hiccups, intractable pain relief, bladder spasticity, trigeminal neuralgia, cerebral palsy, short-term treatment of spasticity in children with cerebral palsy, Huntington's chorea.

Available dosage form in the hospital: Tablet, oral: 10 mg.

Trade Names:

Dosage: **Spasticity:**

Oral: 5 mg 3 times/day, may increase 5 mg/dose every 3 days to a maximum of 80 mg/day

Intrathecal:

Test dose: 50-100 mcg, doses >50 mcg should be given in 25 mcg increments, separated by 24 hours. A screening dose of 25 mcg may be considered in very small patients. Patients not responding to screening dose of 100 mcg should not be considered for chronic infusion/implanted pump.

Maintenance: After positive response to test dose, a maintenance intrathecal infusion can be administered via an implanted intrathecal pump. Initial dose via pump: Infusion at a 24-hourly rate dosed at twice the test dose. Avoid abrupt discontinuation.

Hiccups (unlabeled use): Oral: 10-20 mg 2-3 times/day

Dosing: Geriatric

Oral (the lowest effective dose is recommended): Initial: 5 mg 2-3 times/day, increasing gradually as needed; if benefits are not seen withdraw the drug slowly.

Renal impairment: Oral: No dosage adjustment provided in the manufacturer's labeling. However, baclofen is primarily renally eliminated; use with caution; dosage reduction may be necessary.

IN lexi same as above + : Hemodialysis :poor water solubility allows for accumulation during chronic hemodialysis .Low –dose therapy is recommended .There have been several case reports of accumulation of Baclofen resulting in toxicity symptoms (organic brain syndrome , myoclonia,deceleration and steep potentials in EEG) in patients with renal failure who have received normal doses of baclofen .

Hepatic impairment: Oral: No dosage adjustment provided in the manufacturer's labeling.

Common side effects:

Central nervous system: Drowsiness, vertigo, dizziness, psychiatric disturbances, insomnia, slurred speech, ataxia, hypotonia, fatigue, confusion, headache

Neuromuscular & skeletal: Weakness

Cardiovascular: Hypotension

Dermatologic: Rash

Gastrointestinal: Nausea, constipation

Genitourinary: Polyuria.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C