

CHLORALHYDRATE:

Class: Hypnotic

Indications: Short-term sedative and hypnotic (<2 weeks); sedative/hypnotic for diagnostic procedures; sedative prior to EEG evaluations

Available dosage form in the hospital:

Trade Names:

Dosage:

-Sedation, anxiety: Oral: 250 mg 3 times/day

-Hypnotic: Oral: 500-1000 mg at bedtime or 30 minutes prior to procedure, not to exceed 2 g/24 hours

-Discontinuation: Withdraw gradually over 2 weeks if patient has been maintained on high doses for prolonged period of time. Do not stop drug abruptly; sudden withdrawal may result in delirium

Renal Impairment:

-Cl_{cr} <50 mL/minute: Avoid use.

-Hemodialysis effects: Supplemental dose is not necessary; dialyzable (50% to 100%).

Hepatic Impairment:

Avoid use in patients with severe hepatic impairment

Common side effect:

Central nervous system: Ataxia, disorientation, sedation, excitement (paradoxical), dizziness, fever, headache, confusion, lightheadedness, nightmares, hallucinations, drowsiness, "hangover" effect

Dermatologic: Rash, urticaria

Gastrointestinal: Gastric irritation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flatulence

Hematologic: Leukopenia, eosinophilia, acute intermittent porphyria

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C