

## **Thiopental**

**Class:** Anticonvulsant, Barbiturate; Barbiturate; General Anesthetic

**Indications:** Induction of anesthesia; control of convulsive states; treatment of elevated intracranial pressure

**Available dosage form in the hospital:** Vial: 0.5 g, 1 g.

**Dosage:**

**-Anesthesia: I.V.:**

*-Induction: 3-5 mg/kg*

*-Maintenance: 25-100 mg as needed*

**-Increased intracranial pressure: I.V.:** Children and Adults: 1.5-5 mg/kg/dose; repeat as needed to control intracranial pressure

**-Seizures: I.V.:** 75-250 mg/dose, repeat as needed

### **Renal Impairment:**

$Cl_{cr} < 10$  mL/minute: Administer 75% of normal dose.

**Note:** Accumulation may occur with chronic dosing due to lipid solubility. Prolonged recovery may result from redistribution of thiopental from fat stores.

### **Common side effects:**

Cardiovascular: Bradycardia, hypotension, syncope

Central nervous system: Drowsiness, lethargy, CNS excitation or depression, impaired judgment, "hangover" effect, confusion, somnolence, agitation, hyperkinesia, ataxia, nervousness, headache, insomnia, nightmares, hallucinations, anxiety, dizziness, shivering

Dermatologic: Rash, exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Gastrointestinal: Nausea, vomiting, constipation

Hematologic: Agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia, megaloblastic anemia, immune hemolytic anemia (rare)

Local: Pain at injection site, thrombophlebitis with I.V. use

Renal: Oliguria

Respiratory: Laryngospasm, respiratory depression, apnea (especially with rapid I.V. use), hypoventilation, sneezing, cough, bronchospasm

Miscellaneous: Gangrene with inadvertent intra-arterial injection, anaphylaxis, anaphylactic reactions

**Pregnancy Risk Factor: C**