

DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl) - Public Comment August 2023

ACTION: -Antihistamine

- Antagonizes effects of histamine in allergy.
- Decreases itching, edema, bronchoconstriction, and vasodilation.
- Antagonizes acetylcholine receptors, resulting in resolution of dystonia caused by antipsychotic medications.
- ~~Anaphylaxis.~~
- ~~Allergic reactions.~~
- ~~Dystonic (extrapyramidal) neuromuscular reactions~~

INDICATION	ADULT	PEDIATRIC
1. Anaphylaxis 2. Other allergic reaction 3. Extrapyramidal symptoms, including antipsychotic-induced dystonia	25 – 50 mg IVP/IO/IM IM preferred if perfusing well. IV preferred if anaphylaxis or other severe allergic reaction.	1 mg/kg IVP/IO/IM up to 25 mg IM preferred if perfusing well. IV preferred if anaphylaxis or other severe allergic reaction.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ~~Diphenhydramine can potentiate other CNS depressants~~
- Relative contraindication in pregnant or lactating females

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Drowsiness and sedation
- Hypotension
- ~~Palpitations~~
- Potentiation of other CNS depressants
- Tachycardia
- Headache or blurred vision
- Anticholinergic effects

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

⇒ ~~25 – 50 mg IVP, IM or IO (up to max. 50 mg).~~

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

⇒ ~~1 mg/kg IVP, IO or IM (up to max. 25 mg).~~

NOTES:

- ~~Consider IM administration of Diphenhydramine in patients who are perfusing well.~~
- Consider IV administration of Diphenhydramine with severe allergic reactions/anaphylaxis. In anaphylaxis, do not delay administration of epinephrine; administer diphenhydramine after epinephrine.