

Emergency Drugs

EDIC CLINICAL DENTISTRY ADVISOR | 2020 UPDATE

Emergency Drugs

OXYGEN

A portable source of oxygen, preferably an E cylinder, should be available for those medical emergencies which arise outside of the operatory.

Injectable Drugs

Routes of Parenteral Drug Administration for General Dentists With No Experience Starting IV's
Intramuscular – Subcutaneous – Sublingual

Epinephrine

Vasoconstrictor and bronchodilator

INDICATION:

Severe Allergic Reaction – Anaphylaxis

DOSAGE:

ADULTS - 0.3 MG.

0.3 ml. of a 1:1,000 (1 mg./ml.) solution IM

Epi-Pen Adult Auto-Injector

CHILDREN - 0.15 MG.

0.15 ml. of a 1:1,000 (1 mg./ml.) solution IM

Epi-Pen Jr. Auto-Injector

Diphenhydramine

Histamine antagonist

INDICATION:

Mild Allergic Reaction

No respiratory / CV involvement

Anaphylaxis – Second drug after epinephrine

DOSAGE:

50 MG. IM

(May also give as a 50 mg. tablet orally

– 25 mg. for children)

Non-Injectable Drugs

Nitrates

Primarily a venodilator

INDICATION:

Angina pectoris
Prehospital chest pain

DOSAGE:

Nitroglycerin tablet 0.3 – 0.4 mg. sublingual
Sublingual absorption
Nitroglycerin aerosol spray
400 mcg/spray
Mucous membrane absorption

WARNING: Systolic BP should be >90 mm. Hg!
Do not use if patient has taken drugs
for erectile dysfunction!

Aspirin

Antiplatelet drug

INDICATION:

Myocardial infarction
Prehospital chest pain

DOSAGE:

160 – 325 mg. **CHEWED AND SWALLOWED**
1 Adult aspirin
3 – 4 Baby aspirin

WARNING: Patients allergic to aspirin!
Patients with active peptic ulcer!

Albuterol

A bronchodilator

INDICATION:

Asthma
Allergic reaction
Lower respiratory tract

DOSAGE:

1-2 puffs from Metered Dose Inhaler
(90 mcg / puff)

Ammonia

Respiratory & C-V system stimulant

INDICATION:

Neurocardiogenic syncope (vasovagal syncope)
Use only after proper positioning of patient
Supine position with legs elevated

DOSAGE:

Crush ampul (white-colored)
beneath patient's nose

Do not confuse with amyl nitrite ampul
(yellow-colored)

Glucose

Hyperglycemic agent

INDICATION:

Hypoglycemia (insulin shock)

FORM:

Soda (not diet); Sugar; Candy

The emergency drugs shown here should be a part of every dentist's emergency kit and can be given with the understanding that their proper use most likely will neither aggravate the emergency nor result in further deterioration of the patient's condition.