

Emergency Drugs

Prepared by: Morton Rosenberg, DMD

EDIC CLINICAL DENTISTRY ADVISOR | 2022 UPDATE

Non-Injectable Drugs

OXYGEN

A portable source of oxygen (E cylinder) is the primary emergency agent along with the ability to administer oxygen by positive pressure (bag-valve-mask) if necessary.

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

WARNINGS: Do not administer if systolic BP is not > 90 mg Hg. Do not use if erectile dysfunction drug usage within 24 hours.

Albuterol

A bronchodilator

INDICATION:

Asthma
Allergic reaction
Bronchospasm

DOSAGE:

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

Glucose

Hyperglycemic agent

INDICATION:

Hypoglycemia

FORM:

Soda (not diet); Sugar; Candy

Aspirin

Antiplatelet drug

INDICATION:

Myocardial infarction
Prehospital chest pain

DOSAGE:

160 – 325 mg. non-enteric,
or 4 x 81 mg tablets

CHEWED AND SWALLOWED

WARNINGS: Patients allergic to aspirin.
Patients with active peptic ulcer.

Ammonia

General arousal agent

INDICATION:

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

DOSAGE:

Crush ampule (white-colored) and
place beneath patient's nose

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

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.

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Injectable Drugs

Intramuscular drug administration for general dentists with no expertise in procuring IV access

Epinephrine

Vasoconstrictor and bronchodilator

INDICATION:

Severe Bronchospasm unrelieved by inhaled albuterol

DOSAGE:

ADULTS - 0.3 MG.

0.3 ml. of a 1:1,000 (1 mg./ml.) solution IM
Adult Auto-Injector (e.g. Epi-Pen®)

CHILDREN - 0.15 MG.

0.15 ml. of a 1:1,000 (1 mg./ml.) solution IM
Auto-Injector (e.g. 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)

WARNING: *Caution patient of sedative effects.*