

DBL[®] ADRENALINE INJECTION 1:1000

Adrenaline acid tartrate 1:1,000 (1mg in 1ml)

Presentation

Adrenaline is (R)-1-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-methyl-aminoethanol; C₉H₁₃NO₃. It is a white odourless crystalline powder, soluble in solutions of mineral acids and alkalis.

DBL[®] Adrenaline Injection 1:1,000 is a sterile solution of adrenaline acid tartrate in water containing adrenaline acid tartrate 1.8mg/mL and sodium metabisulfite 1.0mg/ml as an antioxidant. The solution also contains sodium chloride 8.0mg/ml. The solution contains no antimicrobial preservatives.

Uses

Actions

Adrenaline is a direct-acting sympathomimetic agent exerting its effect on alpha and beta adrenoreceptors. Major effects are increased systolic blood pressure, reduced diastolic pressure, tachycardia, hyperglycaemia and hypokalaemia. It is a powerful cardiac stimulant. It has vasopressor properties, an antihistaminic action and is a bronchodilator. Its action is rapid in onset and of short duration.

Adrenaline is rapidly distributed to the heart, spleen, several glandular tissues and adrenergic nerves. It crosses the placenta and is excreted in breast milk. It is approximately 50% bound to plasma proteins. The onset of action is rapid and after intravenous infusion the half life is approximately 5-10 minutes.

Adrenaline is rapidly metabolised in the liver and tissues. Up to 90% of the IV dose is excreted as metabolites in the urine.

Indications

For the treatment of acute allergic reactions, life-threatening angioneurotic oedema, and anaphylactic shock resulting from reactions to drugs, animal serums, insect stings and other allergens.

Dosage and Administration

For subcutaneous or intramuscular use. Do not inject intravenously.

In emergency situations, adrenaline may be injected very slowly intravenously but **only** as the dilute solution of 1:10,000.

Do not use if the injection is brown or contains a precipitate.

When used in anaphylactic shock volume replacement is an essential concomitant treatment since effective intravascular volume may have been depleted by increased vascular permeability in anaphylaxis.

For the relief of anaphylactic shock and life threatening angioneurotic oedema, adrenaline should be administered by intramuscular injection. For acute allergic reactions due to insect stings etc. either the intramuscular or subcutaneous route may be used.

Adults:

0.3 to 0.5 mL (0.3-0.5mg), administered slowly. The dose may be repeated every 10 minutes if necessary. In severe reactions the dose can be increased to 1mL.

Elderly patients:

The usual adult dose is used but should be given very slowly with caution as elderly patients may be more sensitive to adrenaline.

Children (up to 12 years of age):

100 - 500ug depending on age, or 50ug for infants under 1 year

Contraindications

The following contraindications should be considered: hyperthyroidism hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, diabetes mellitus, narrow angle glaucoma and known sensitivity to sympathomimetic amines.

Adrenaline should not be used in the presence of cardiac dilation.

Adrenaline should not be used in most patients with arrhythmias and cerebral arteriosclerosis, where vasopressor drugs may be contraindicated eg in thyrotoxicosis, in obstetrics when maternal blood pressure is in excess of 130/80.

Adrenaline is also contraindicated in shock (other than anaphylactic shock), in patients with organic brain damage, during general anaesthesia with halogenated hydrocarbons or cyclopropane.

Adrenaline should not be injected into fingers, toes, ears, nose or genitalia.

Warnings and Precautions

Use with caution in patients with ventricular fibrillation, prefibrillatory rhythm tachycardia, myocardial infarction, phenothiazine induced circulatory collapse and prostatic hypertrophy.

Administer slowly with caution to elderly patients and to patients with hypertension diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism and psychoneurosis. Use with extreme caution in patients with long-standing bronchial asthma and emphysema who have developed degenerative heart disease. Anginal pain may be induced when coronary insufficiency is present. Use with caution in patients with narrow angle glaucoma.

Adrenaline may delay the second stage of labour by inhibiting contractions of the uterus.

Syncope has occurred following administration to asthmatic children.

In patients with Parkinsonian syndrome the drug increased rigidity and tremor.

Intra-arterial administration should be avoided since marked vasoconstriction may result in gangrene.

Intramuscular injection into the buttocks should be avoided as gas gangrene is a possibility.

Local ischaemic necrosis can occur from repeated injections in one site.

DBL[®] Adrenaline Injection contains a sulphate which may cause allergic type reactions in certain susceptible individuals.

Use in Pregnancy

(Category A): Adrenaline has been given to a large number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age without any proven increase in the frequency of malformations or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the foetus having been observed.

Adrenaline may delay the second stage of labour by inhibiting contractions of the uterus.

Use in Lactation:

Adrenaline is excreted in breast milk.

Interactions with other drugs:

Adrenaline should not be administered with other sympathomimetic agents because of the danger of additive effects and increased toxicity.

Rapidly acting vasodilators can counteract the marked pressor effects of adrenaline.

The effects of adrenaline may be potentiated by tricyclic antidepressants, some antihistamines and thyroid hormones.

Halothane and other anaesthetics such as cyclopropane and trichlorethylene increase the risk of adrenaline – induced ventricular arrhythmias and acute pulmonary oedema if hypoxia is present.

Severe hypertension and bradycardia may occur with non-selective beta-blocking drugs. Popranolol inhibits the bronchodilator effect of adrenaline. The risk of cardiac arrhythmias is higher when adrenaline is given to patients receiving digoxin or quinidine.

Adrenaline induced hyperglycaemia may lead to loss of blood sugar control in diabetic patients treated with hypoglycaemic agents.

Patients on monoamine oxidase inhibitors should not receive sympathomimetic treatment.

Adrenaline is physically incompatible with alkalis, metals, oxidising agents, sodium warfarin, hyaluronidase and many other drugs; it forms polymers with sodium bicarbonate.

Adverse Effects

Common symptomatic adverse events include anxiety, restlessness, tachycardia, tremor, weakness, dizziness, headache, dyspnoea, cold extremities, pallor, sweating, nausea, vomiting, sleeplessness, hallucinations and flushing or redness of face and skin. Psychomotor agitation, disorientation, impaired memory and psychosis may occur.

The potentially severe adverse effects of adrenaline arise from its effect upon blood pressure and cardiac rhythm. Ventricular fibrillation may occur and severe hypertension may lead to cerebral haemorrhage and pulmonary oedema.

Overdosage

Effects:

Cardiac arrhythmias leading to ventricular fibrillation and death.

Severe hypertension leading to pulmonary oedema and cerebral haemorrhage.

Overdosage of adrenaline can result in severe metabolic acidosis because of elevated blood concentration of lactic acid.

Treatment:

Combined alpha and beta adrenergic blocking agents such as labetalol may counteract the effects of adrenaline, or a beta blocking agent may be used to treat supraventricular arrhythmias and phentolamine to control the alpha mediated effects on the peripheral circulation. Rapidly acting vasodilators such as nitrates and sodium nitroprusside may also be helpful.

Pharmaceutical Precautions

Store below 25°C. Protect from light. Do not use if the injection is brown or contains a precipitate.

Medicine Classification

Restricted Medicine.

Package Quantities

DBL[®] Adrenaline Injection is available in a single use ampoule containing 1mg adrenaline acid tartrate in 1mL (1:1,000). It is supplied in packs of 5 or 50.

Name and Address

Hospira NZ Limited
23 Haining Street
Te Aro
Wellington
New Zealand

Date of Preparation

23 May 2008

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