



GUIDELINE

Salbutamol - Intravenous

Scope (Staff):	All Emergency Department Clinicians
Scope (Area):	Emergency Department

This document should be read in conjunction with this DISCLAIMER
<http://kidshealthwa.com/about/disclaimer/>

Salbutamol - Intravenous

Medication

- Salbutamol is a β agonist that can be used intravenously in severe acute asthma in the Emergency Department
- It is used initially as an intravenous bolus, but can be continued as an intravenous infusion (in a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit)

Actions

- Salbutamol acts on the β_2 adrenoreceptors in the smooth muscle of the bronchi causing bronchodilation

Indications

- Acute severe asthma
- Inadequate response to continuous nebulised salbutamol

Contraindications

- Patients with known hypersensitivity to salbutamol
- Care should be taken with patients with hypertension, hyperthyroidism, myocardial insufficiency or diabetes

Adverse

- Muscle tremors, especially of the hands
- Tachycardia

- Nausea and vomiting
- Headaches, agitation and hyperactivity
- Palpitations
- Feelings of warmth
- High doses can cause peripheral vasodilatation resulting in hypotension
- Overdose can result in chest pain, SVT and pulmonary hypertension

Dosage

- **Intravenous Continuous Infusion:** 1-5 micrograms/kg/min (start at 1 microgram/kg/min, discuss with PICU if considering a higher dose). Infusion rate will be adjusted according to patient response.

Preparation

Continuous Infusion

- Drug: 3mg/kg Salbutamol
- Diluent: 500ml bag of 0.9% Saline or 5% Dextrose
- Rate of 10ml/hour = 1 microgram/kg/minute
- Titrate infusion 1 - 5 micrograms/kg/min according to patient response

Administration

- Administer infusion via a pump
- Set volume to be infused on the pump to prevent overdose
- **Always prime the line** with the diluted salbutamol solution to prevent any delay in the patient receiving the medication

Special

- The patient will require 1 : 1 nursing care
- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- 5 minutely observations for the first 10 minutes – heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturations
- 15 minutely observations thereafter
- Consider Paediatric Intensive Care review
- Consider placing a second intravenous cannula (for further treatment as salbutamol is incompatible with many other drugs)


Tags

asthma, breathing, bronchodilator, bronchospasm, intravenous, life threatening, nebulised, respiratory, salbutamol, severe, ventolin, wheeze

References

PMH ED Guidelines: Salbutamol Intravenous – Last Updated 03/09/14

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