

DRUG:	SUXAMETHONIUM CHLORIDE
PRESENTATION:	Ampoule: 100mg/2mL
ACTION & INDICATION:	Skeletal muscle relaxant used for brief procedures (eg endotracheal intubation).
DOSE:	1 - 2mg/kg/dose A test dose of 0.1mg/kg IV may be given to determine patient response.
PREPARATION:	Withdraw 1mL from ampoule. Dilute it to 5 mL with 0.9% Sodium Chloride = 10 mg/mL
ADMINISTRATION:	IV: over 10 – 30 seconds
ADVERSE EFFECTS :	An IV bolus may result in profound bradycardia or asystole. This response is more common with repeated doses. Hypertension, hypotension, hyperkalaemia, bradycardia. Pre-treatment with atropine may reduce risk of bradycardia and cardiac arrest. <i>Malignant hyperthermia – continuous infusion considered unsafe in neonates.</i> Dantrolene IV is the drug of choice to treat malignant hyperthermia. Seek Specialist advice.
COMMENTS:	A protocol for intubation of term infants includes Suxamethonium 2mg/kg/dose produces 5-10 minutes paralysis Discard diluted solution immediately after use Ampoules stored 2 - 8°C
REFERENCES:	Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13 th Ed Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne BNF for Children 2009
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