

EPINEPHRINE RACEMIC 2.25% (generic)

ACTION: Stimulates both α - and β - adrenergic receptors; bronchodilator, and helps relieve the subglottic edema with laryngotracheobronchitis (Croup). Racemic Epinephrine causes local effects on the upper airway as well as systemic effects from absorption.

INDICATIONS:

1. Moderate to severe laryngotracheobronchitis (croup)
2. Bronchial asthma
3. Laryngeal edema

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Epiglottitis (do not attempt to examine the back of the throat).
2. Hypertension
3. Significant underlying cardiovascular disease

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Mask and noise may be frightening to small children. Agitation will aggravate symptoms.
2. Monitor vital signs, ECG, and lung sounds every 5 minutes
3. Given only by inhalation
4. Should only be used once prehospital. Contact medical control physician if second treatment is needed.
5. Excessive use may cause bronchospasms
6. May develop “rebound worsening” within 30-60 minutes
7. M.A.O. inhibitors may potentiate the effect of this medication.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS:

1. Nervousness, restlessness, and tremors
2. Headache
3. Tremors
4. Tachycardia
5. Dysrhythmias, palpitations and angina
6. Nausea/vomiting

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Adult: >40 kg
 - A. Do not give to adult patients
2. Child: <40 kg:
 - A. Add 0.5 ml of racemic epinephrine in 2 ml of saline placed into nebulizer reservoir.
3. Connect nebulizer to oxygen source at 6 or 8 liters per minute (depending on manufacturer).
4. Have patient breathe as calmly and deeply as possible until no more mist is found in the nebulizer chamber (5 - 15 minutes). Routine nebulizer therapy should be accomplished by instructing the patient to close his/her lips tightly around the mouthpiece. An acceptable alternative to using the mouthpiece would be to attach the nebulizer reservoir to an oxygen mask, i.e. remove the bag from a non-rebreather nebulizer reservoir and do not use the T-piece or the mouthpiece.
5. Restart patient on oxygen at appropriate concentration.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Effects can last from 90-120 minutes.
2. Nebulizer treatment may cause blanching of the skin in the mask area due to local epinephrine absorption.
3. If respiratory arrest occurs, it is most likely due to fatigue, not obstruction.
4. **Patient must be transported after receiving Racemic Epinephrine.**
5. Racemic epinephrine is heat and light sensitive and should be stored in a dark cool place. Do not use if it becomes discolored.