

<b>BENADRYL (brand), DIPHENHYDRAMINE (generic), BENYLIN (brand)</b>
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**ACTION:** Antihistamine (H<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist); blocks the effects of histamine

**INDICATIONS:**

1. In anaphylaxis, as an adjunct to epinephrine
2. In allergic reactions, if epinephrine is contraindicated
3. Combative/aggressive patients
4. Extrapyramidal (Parkinsonian-like, thick tongue, neck distortion) symptoms associated with Compazine administration

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

1. Allergy or known hypersensitivity to diphenhydramine HCL
2. Acute asthma attacks
3. Newborn or premature infants

**PRECAUTIONS:**

1. Benadryl has an atropine-like action, therefore use with caution in patients with bronchial asthma, hyperthyroidism, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and COPD.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS:**

1. Drowsiness and sedation
2. Dizziness and headache
3. Blurred vision
4. Palpitations and chest tightness
5. Wheezing and thickening of bronchial secretions
6. Hypotension
7. Hallucinations, paradoxical excitement and convulsions (especially in children)

**ADMINISTRATION:**

1. For anaphylaxis or allergic reactions: Administer Benadryl 25 mg IV/IO or 50 mg deep IM.
2. For extrapyramidal symptoms associated with Compazine administration: Obtain physician order.
3. Further orders must come from Medical Control Physician.

**PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Do not give to patients < 12 years without physician order.
2. Initial dose is 1.0 mg/kg slow IV/IO or deep IM.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

1. Benadryl in the injectable form has a rapid onset of action.
2. IV route is preferred. Deep IM route can be used if unable to establish an IV.