

DEXTROSE, ORAL (generic), GLUCOSE (generic), GLUTOSE (brand)

ACTION: Hyperglycemic; increases circulating blood sugar levels

INDICATIONS:

1. Suspected or known hypoglycemia (BS < 80 mg/dL)

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Intracranial hemorrhage

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Airway must be carefully maintained.
2. Should not be used as a diagnostic agent in the patient with altered LOC unless the BS is known to be < 80 mg/dL or, if the BS cannot be determined, patient is known to be diabetic.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Logroll patient to prevent aspiration and place in the recovery position.
2. Check blood sugar.
3. Administer 1 tube (Approximately 25 - 31 gm per tube) in downside cheek of log-rolled patient.
4. Administer slowly, monitoring absorption. Maintain adequate airway.
5. Repeat BS measurement.
6. Further orders must come from monitoring physician.

PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Do not give to patients < 12 years without physician order.
2. The initial dosage is usually one half of the adult dose.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. All patients whose hypoglycemia is due to oral hypoglycemic agents should be transported. Medical Control Physician consult required before patient can refuse transport.
2. BLS with medication training: In patients with decreased level of consciousness from hypoglycemia, glucagon is considered first-line treatment.
3. ALS services: In patients with BS < 40 mg/dL, IV/IO dextrose and/or glucagon are considered first/second line treatment.