

GENERIC NAME: **DEXAMETHASONE SODIUM PHOSPHATE**

BRAND NAME: Decadron

CLASS: synthetic adrenocorticoid/glucocorticoid with a predominance of glucocorticoid action, anti-inflammatory

Mechanism of Action:

Improves lung function and myocardial performance: stabilization of lysosomal and cell membranes, inhibition of compliment-induced granulocyte aggregation, rightward shift in oxygen-hemoglobin dissociation curve, inhibition of prostaglandin and leukotriene production, increase in surfactant production, decrease in pulmonary edema, relaxation of bronchospasm.

Indications and Field Use:

Reactive airway disease: Acute exacerbation of bronchial asthma
Anaphylaxis
Cerebral edema (non-traumatic)

Contraindications:

Systemic fungal infections
Hypersensitivity to any component of dexamethasone, including sulfites
Preterm infants

Adverse Reactions:

Sodium retention, fluid retention, potassium loss, hypokalemic alkalosis, hypertension, convulsions, hyperglycemia, myocardial rupture following recent myocardial infarction

NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

Dexamethasone is not compatible with benadryl or versed in IV tubing.

Adult Dosage:

Reactive Airway Disease, Anaphylaxis
8-24 mg

Cerebral Edema
1-5 mg/kg

GD-035-PHS-EMS: Drug Profile for Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate

Pediatric Dosage:

Reactive Airway Disease, Anaphylaxis

0.25-0.5 mg/kg

Cerebral Edema

0.5-1.5 mg/kg

Routes of Administration:

IV bolus, IM

Onset of Action:

4-8 hours

Peak Effects:

6-12 hours

Duration of Action:

24-72 hours

Dosage Forms/Packaging:

20 mg/5 mL, 100 mg/25 mL, 120 mg/5 mL

Arizona Drug Box Supply Range:

PARAMEDIC: 2-4 120 mg/5 mL and 2-4 20 mg/5 mL

INTERMEDIATE: 2-4 120 mg/5 mL and 2-4 20 mg/5 mL