

Class

Antidysrhythmic

Pharmacologic properties

Amiodarone is considered a class III antiarrhythmic. It possesses electrophysiologic characteristics of sodium, potassium and calcium channel blockade, as well as alpha- and beta-adrenergic blocking activity. These properties prolong action potentials and repolarization, stabilizing myocardial membranes.

Indications

- Ventricular fibrillation/pulseless ventricular tachycardia [Protocol 9](#).
- Monomorphic ventricular tachycardia without overt signs of shock (SBP > 90) [Protocol 9](#), [Protocol 9P](#).
- Wide complex tachycardia of unknown etiology [Protocol 9](#), [Protocol 9P](#).
- Pediatric ventricular fibrillation/pulseless ventricular tachycardia [Protocol 9P](#).

Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Cardiogenic shock, marked sinus bradycardia, and second- and third-degree AV block
- Iodine hypersensitivity
- Patients taking Coumadin (Warfarin)

Precautions

- Solution is extremely viscous – Do Not Shake
- Administer the medication slowly
- Administered to patients on Digoxin may cause digitalis toxicity

Side Effects/Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions include fever, bradycardia, CHF, cardiac arrest, hypotension, ventricular tachycardia, prolonged QT interval, nausea, and abnormal liver function.

Dosage and Administration

Adult

Adult V-Fib or Pulseless V-Tach

- 300 mg IV/IO bolus.
 - For persistent VF/VT, repeat 150 mg IV/IO bolus (Maximum dose of 450 mg)

Adult (Wide Complex Tachycardia with a Pulse)

- 150 mg IV over 8-9 minutes. Mix 150 mg in 50 mL IV NS. Use a 10 gtts/mL (macro) drip set and administer 1 gtt/sec to achieve 150 mg over 10 minutes.
 - May repeat 150 mg IV over 8-9 minutes.

Pediatric

Pediatric V-Fib or Pulseless VT

- 5 mg/kg IV/IO bolus (Maximum individual dose 300 mg).
 - For persistent VF/VT, repeat 5 mg/kg IV/IO bolus.
 - May be administered up to 3 times for a maximum total dose of 15 mg/kg.

Pediatric (Wide Complex Tachycardia with a Pulse)

- 5 mg/kg over 20 minutes. Mix 5 mg/kg in 50 mL IV bag NS. Use a 10 gtts/mL (macro) drip set and administer 1 gtt every 2 seconds to achieve dose delivery over approximately 20 minutes.