

Class

Anesthesia Induction Agent, Nonbarbiturate Hypnotic

Pharmacologic Properties

Etomidate is a short-acting, non-barbiturate hypnotic, lacking analgesic properties used for induction of general anesthesia. The action is at the level of the reticular activating system in the brain-system. Etomidate is generally considered to have minimal adverse effect on cardiac and respiratory function. The duration of action is 3-5 minutes and excretion is through the renal system.

Indications

- To induce general anesthesia to facilitate intubation [Protocol 7](#), [Protocol 7P](#).
- Unconscious patient with trismus [Protocol 7](#), [Protocol 7P](#).

Contraindications

- Suspected sepsis
- Known sensitivity to the drug

Precautions

- Supportive airway control must be monitored and under direct observation at all times.

Side Effects/Adverse Reactions

- The most common side effects are nausea and vomiting. Can cause uncontrolled skeletal muscle activity. May cause trismus if pushed too fast.

Dosage and Administration

Adult

- 20 mg IV over 30 – 60 seconds (Max dose of 20 mg).
 - Single dose only.

Pediatric

- **Pediatric > 10 years of age**
- 0.3 mg/kg IV over 30 – 60 seconds (Max dose of 20 mg).
 - Single dose only.