ATROPINE SULFATE
(ANTIDOTE FOR POISONING)

Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

ACTIONS

Atropine is a potent parasympatholytic that binds to acetylcholine receptors thus diminishing the actions of acetylcholine.

INDICATIONS

Anticholinesterase syndrome poisoning such as; Organophosphate (e.g. parathion, Malathion, rid-a-bug) and carbamate (Baygon, Sevin and many common roach & ant sprays).

Signs of organophosphate poisoning are:

- Salivation
- Lacrimation
- Urination
- Defecation
- GI distress
- Emesis
- Pinpoint pupils, bradycardia, and excessive sweating.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

None when used in the management of severe organophosphate poisoning.
WARNINGS

It is important that the patient be adequately oxygenated and ventilated prior to using atropine as Atropine may precipitate ventricular fibrillation in a poorly oxygenated patient.

Even after Atropine is administered, the patient may require intubation and aggressive ventilatory support.

ADVERSE REACTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Victims of organophosphate poisoning can tolerate large doses (1000 mg) of Atropine.

Signs of atropinization are the end point of treatment: flushing, pupil dilation, dry mouth, and tachycardia.

DOSAGE

**Adult:** 0.03 mg/kg IV, repeat q 5-10 minutes until atropinization occurs.

**Peds:** 0.05 mg/kg (max. 3 mg) IV, repeat q 5-10 minutes until atropinization occurs.