ACTIONS

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 brainstem.

Etomidate is generally considered to have minimal adverse effect on cardiac and respiratory function.

The duration of action is usually short, 3-5 minutes and excretion is through the renal system.

INDICATIONS

The use of paralytic drugs in the Advanced Airway Management protocol under (R.S.I) is reserved for those paramedics that have received extensive training in advanced airway management.

The administration of RSI drugs found in this procedure must only be done by those paramedics that have prior medical director authorization.

Authorized paramedic(s) may use to facilitate endotracheal intubation.

See Medical Procedure 4.28 – Advanced Airway Management

PRECAUTIONS

Causes respiratory depression and paralysis; supportive airway control must be continuous and under direct observation at all times.

Etomidate can decrease the adrenal glands production of steroid hormones. Use caution may be synergistic with other CNS depressants. Monitoring of vital signs is important.
ADVERSE REACTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Adverse effects:

1. Respiratory depression or apnea.
2. Involuntary myoclonus (muscle twitching)
3. Adrenal suppression (possible with repeated dosing)
4. Hypotension (infrequent)

Precautions:

1. The effects of Etomidate can be accentuated by CNS depressants (such as narcotics and alcohol).
2. Myoclonic movements are common and should not be confused for fasciculations due to a depolarizing neuromuscular blocking agent or seizure activity.

DOSAGE

Adult & Pediatric: 0.3 mg / kg slow administration (about one minute) IV.

Maximum dose: 0.6 mg / kg.

Onset: Rapid

Duration: 5 to 30 minutes (dose dependant)