CLASS: A

PROTOCOLS USED IN: Endotracheal Intubation RSI

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:
Vecuronium is a non-depolarizing neuromuscular blocking agent causing skeletal muscle relaxation. It reversibly binds the acetylcholine receptor, blocking the action of acetylcholine. Neuromuscular blockade occurs within 2-3 minutes. Time to recovery is 30-45 minutes. Vecuronium metabolism is 5-35% renal with the remainder done in the liver.

INDICATIONS:
A. For sustained neuromuscular blockade in the intubated patient.
B. As the first line agent for Rapid Sequence Induction in the patient where Succinylcholine is contraindicated.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:
None

PRECAUTIONS:
A. Patients with renal or hepatic failure may experience prolonged paralysis.
B. Vecuronium has no effect on consciousness and must be used with a sedative or induction agent.

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:
A. Vecuronium exhibits minimal side effects and does not substantially affect heart rate or rhythm, systolic or diastolic blood pressure, mean arterial pressure, cardiac output, or systemic vascular resistance.
B. Vecuronium can be used to maintain paralysis even if intubation was performed without Succinylcholine.

ADULT DOSING:
0.1 mg/kg IV/IO.

PEDIATRIC DOSING:
0.05 – 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO