

VECURONIUM

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS

- Vecuronium Bromide is a long acting non-depolarizing (competitive blocking) skeletal muscle relaxant.
- Vecuronium competes with acetylcholine at cholinergic receptor sites. Its maximal neuromuscular blockade occurs in five minutes and its duration of action is about 30-45 minutes.
- As with succinylcholine, complete paralysis of all skeletal muscles occurs and there is no effect on consciousness at all.

INDICATIONS

- To maintain prolonged paralysis in the intubated patient, after the effects of Succinylcholine start to wear off.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Non-intubated patients.

ADMINISTRATION

- 0.05 – 0.10 mg/kg may be repeated as needed to maintain paralysis of the intubated patient.

SIDE EFFECTS AND SPECIAL NOTES

- Due to the prolonged duration of action, it is essential to constantly monitor the endotracheal tube placement.
- Patients with renal or hepatic failure may experience prolonged paralysis.
- Vecuronium can be used to maintain paralysis even if intubation was performed without succinylcholine.

- Repeated doses of Versed may be needed in the conscious patient.