

Glycopyrrolate

Classification

Anticholinergic agent

Indications

- ACP: Management of excessive respiratory secretions in palliative care

Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity to glycopyrrolate
- Glaucoma
- Obstructive uropathy
- Obstructive diseases of the gastrointestinal tract
- Paralytic ileus
- Intestinal atony
- Chronic lung diseases in elderly or debilitated patients
- Unstable cardiovascular status in acute hemorrhage
- Severe ulcerative colitis
- Toxic megacolon (as a complication of ulcerative colitis)
- Myasthenia gravis

Adult dosages

- ACP: Management of excessive respiratory secretions in palliative care
- Requires specific training and license endorsement. Collaborate with CliniCall and patient's care team before selecting a dosing strategy.
- Initial dose: 0.4 mg SC, then 0.2-0.4 mg SC every 1-4 hours as required

Pediatric Considerations And Dosing

Consultation with CliniCall is required prior to administration of glycopyrrolate to children

Mechanism Of Action

Blocks the action of acetylcholine at parasympathetic sites in secretory glands, smooth muscle, and the central nervous system, reducing the rate of salivation indirectly by preventing stimulation of acetylcholine receptors.

Pharmacokinetics

Onset via subcutaneous administration is reported within 30-60 minutes of administration.

Adverse Effects

- Dry mouth
- Urinary retention
- Visual disturbances
- Confusion

- Tachycardia

Warning And Precautions

- Use half the dose in end-stage renal failure.
- Elderly patients may be particularly susceptible to glycopyrrolate's anticholinergic action. Start with low doses.
- Glycopyrrolate may decrease sweat production, which can exacerbate fever or provoke heat exhaustion in warm environments.
- Investigate any tachycardia before administering glycopyrrolate, as it may independently raise the heart rate. Caution is advised in patients with a history of coronary artery disease, heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, or hypertension.

Drug Interactions

Glycopyrrolate may decrease serum concentrations of haloperidol; concurrent use should be avoided if possible.

