

DimenhyDRINATE

Classification

- Antiemetic
- Antihistamine
- Anticholinergic
- Anti-vertigo

Indications

- PCP: Prevention or control of nausea caused by motion sickness
- PCP: Relief of moderate to severe nausea and vomiting
- ACP: Prevention or control of nausea caused by narcotic administration

Contraindications

Known sensitivity to dimenhydrinate, diphenhydramine, or caffeine derivatives.

Adult dosages

- PCP: Nausea relief
- 25-50 mg IV/IM
- 12.5 mg IV/IM in elderly or frail patients
- May repeat dose once if required
- Give IM dose as direct injection. IV dose should be diluted with saline. Administer medication at rate of 25 mg/min.

Pediatric Considerations And Dosing

[Follow weight-based dosing](#)

- PCP: Nausea relief
- 1.25 mg/kg IV/IM. Maximum single dose of 25 mg
- Maximum total daily dose 5 mg/kg/day
- Note: not authorized for patients under 12 years by PCP

Mechanism Of Action

Inhibits cholinergic vestibular and reticular stimulation from motion

Pharmacokinetics

Intravenous:

- Onset: nearly immediate
- Peak: uncertain
- Duration: 3-6 hours

Intramuscular:

- Onset: 20-30 minutes
- Peak: uncertain
- Duration: 3-6 hours

Adverse Effects

Drowsiness and dizziness are the most frequently reported adverse effects. Most side effects are dose-related.

Overdose

Symptoms of overdose are similar to those of atropine toxicity, and can include flushing, dilated pupils, hallucinations, confusion, ataxia, seizures, and loss of consciousness. Treatment is primarily supportive.

Warning And Precautions

Older adults may be particularly susceptible to dimenhyDRINATE's effects. Use with caution in patients with increased ocular pressure or glaucoma, prostatic hypertrophy or urinary obstruction, cardiovascular disease, and asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The benefits of dimenhyDRINATE for pregnant women must be weighed against the potential oxytocic effect in these patients.

Drug Interactions

DimenhyDRINATE may potentiate the effects of alcohol, benzodiazepines, or other CNS depressants. Drugs with anticholinergic properties, including tricyclic antidepressants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, or other antihistamines, may also act synergistically.

