

SECTION: Medication Reference

PROTOCOL TITLE: Terbutaline

REVISED: 09/2020

DRUG NAME: Terbutaline

TRADE NAME: Brethaire, Brethine

DRUG CLASS: Beta 2 Agonist Bronchodilator

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

Terbutaline is a bronchodilator. It is a beta adrenergic receptor stimulator that causes smooth muscle relaxation around the airways.

INDICATIONS:

Wheezing and shortness of breath due to asthma, COPD, bronchitis, or emphysema exacerbation.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Hypersensitivity to sympathomimetics
2. Shortness of breath due to cardiac induced respiratory distress (i.e. CHF)

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Severe hypertension
2. Seizure history
3. Cardiac history/arrhythmias

DOSAGE:

Adults:

- 0.25mg q15-30min x 2 doses into the lateral deltoid administered subcutaneously
- Supplied in 1mg/1ml vials

Pediatrics:

- N/A

ONSET:

Subcutaneous: 6-15 minutes

DURATION:

90 minutes – 4 hours

INTERACTIONS:

1. Sympathomimetics (nonspecific B-blockers) may enhance vasoconstriction, producing severe and persistent hypertension. They can also increase cardiac irritability, causing tachycardia and arrhythmias.

TERBUTALINE

TERBUTALINE

PEARLS:

1. Blood pressure and pulse rate may be elevated following administration of terbutaline. Arrhythmias, muscle cramps, weakness, seizures, chest pain, and confusion has also occurred after administration.
2. Do not exceed 0.5mg/4hr. Consider other therapeutic measures if patient fails to respond to treatment.
3. Early consideration should be given to adding anti-inflammatory agents i.e. corticosteroids since beta-adrenergic agonist bronchodilators alone may not be enough to control respiratory distress in some patients.
4. Use with caution in patients with cardiovascular disorders, especially coronary insufficiency, cardiac arrhythmias, and hypertension