

VECURONIUM
(vh-kyour-OH-nee-um)
Norcuron

PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:

-non-depolarizing neuromuscular blocking agent

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

-skeletal muscle relaxant
-paralytic

INDICATIONS:

-to facilitate intubation
-for prolonged paralysis

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

-prevents acetylcholine from binding to receptors on the motor end-plate, blocking depolarization; this results in paralysis of skeletal and respiratory muscles

ONSET:

-within 1 minute

DURATION:

-25-40 minutes

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

-severe obesity
-neuromuscular disease
-elderly

SIDE EFFECTS:

-prolonged paralysis
-skeletal muscle weakness

INTERACTIONS:

-use with opioid analgesics may increase respiratory depression
-use with other paralytic agents may result in prolonged paralysis

DOSAGE:

-0.1 mg/kg IV

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

-shorter duration than Pavulon
-less cardiovascular effects than Pavulon