

HALOPERIDOL (Haldol)

PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATIONS:

-butyrophenone

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATIONS:

-antipsychotic

MAIN INDICATIONS:

- severe acute and chronic psychoses (as a chemical restraint)
 - manic states
 - drug-induced psychoses
 - schizophrenia
 - severe behavior problems in children
- control of tics and vocal utterances associated with Tourette's syndrome

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

- reduces the manifestations of psychotic behavior by blocking CNS dopamine receptors in the brain associated with mood and behavior (causes sedation)
- causes alpha-adrenergic blockade
- decreases release of growth hormone
- causes significant extrapyramidal effects

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- conditions associated with CNS depression
- circulatory collapse or compromise
- Parkinson's Disease

MAJOR SIDE EFFECTS:

- drowsiness/sedation
- confusion
- restlessness
- insomnia
- seizures
- respiratory depression
- hypotension
- arrhythmias
- nausea/vomiting
- extrapyramidal reactions
- tardive dyskinesia (slow, rhythmical, automatic movements--generalized or in single muscle groups)

INTERACTIONS:

- additive depressant effects are likely if used with other depressants (alcohol, narcotics, tranquilizers, barbiturates)
- use with antihypertensives or nitrates may cause significant hypotension
- phenobarbital may decrease the effectiveness of haldol

DOSAGE:

-2 to 5 mg IM

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

-drug is sensitive to light (concentrate will yellow--does not effect potency)