

MEPERIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE
(meh-PER-ih-deen)
Demerol

PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:

-synthetic narcotic analgesic (least potent of common opioid analgesics)

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

-analgesic; adjunct to anesthesia

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

-stimulates opioid receptors in the brain
-suppresses CNS activity

EFFECT:

-decreases perception of pain and anxiety – analgesic effect
-decreases systemic vascular resistance – hemodynamic effect
-decreases preload – hemodynamic effect

ONSET:

-10-45 minutes

DURATION:

-2-4 hours

INDICATIONS:

-relief of moderate to severe pain
-ischemic chest pain

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

-altered LOC
-hypotension
-head injury
-abdominal pain of unknown origin

INTERACTIONS:

-CNS depressants (narcotic analgesics, antihistamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, tricyclic antidepressants, alcohol, etc.)

SIDE EFFECTS:

-hypotension
-respiratory depression
-CNS depression
-tachycardia

DOSAGE:

-25 mg IV push slowly – may repeat in 5 minutes, titrate to effect
-50-100 mg IM

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

-effects reversible with narcan
-benedryl may reverse opioid-induced hypotension refractory to narcan
-shorter duration of action than morphine