

PHENOBARBITOL
(fee-no-BAR-bih-tal)
(Luminal)

PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:

-barbiturate

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

-anti-convulsant; sedative-hypnotic

INDICATIONS:

-seizures
-status epilepticus
-febrile seizures in children

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

-suppresses the spread of seizure activity
-causes depression of the CNS
-causes dose dependent CNS depression by inhibiting nerve depolarization, impulse transmission, and release of neurotransmitters
-distributed evenly throughout the body
-crosses the BBB very slowly
-causes induction of liver enzymes and therefore increases rate of metabolism of liver metabolized drugs
-at lower doses it is used as a sedative, while higher doses are used for the hypnotic effects

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

-headache
-vertigo
-bronchospasm
-respiratory depression
-hypotension

PRECAUTIONS:

-use with caution in patients with known renal dysfunction or hypotension
-administer slowly to avoid cardiovascular side effects
-inject slowly to avoid extravasation as tissue damage and necrosis may result

SIDE EFFECTS:

-respiratory depression/apnea
-ataxia (defective muscle coordination)
-hangover with hypnotic doses
-rebound insomnia when prolonged use is stopped
-vertigo
-drowsiness

- headache
- bradycardia/hypotension
- nausea/vomiting

INTERACTIONS:

-may potentiate CNS and respiratory depressant effects of other sedative-hypnotics, narcotics, antihistamines, phenothiazines, antidepressants, tranquilizers, and alcohol.

-increased CNS depression with other depressants

DOSAGE:

-100 to 300 mg slow IV bolus

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- it may take up to 60 minutes after IV administration to achieve maximum effect
- don't give faster than 60 mg/min (hypotension and respiratory depression)