

DIPHENHYDRAMINE
(dye-fen-HY-drah-meen)
Benedryl

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

-ethanol-amine-derivative antihistamine

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

- antihistamine (H_1 -receptor antagonist)
- anti-vertigo agent
- sedative-hypnotic
- anti-cholinergic agent

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

- inhibits histamine release and effects
- antihistamines compete for histamine H_1 -receptor sites on the smooth muscle of the bronchi, GI tract, uterus, and large blood vessels
- prevents access of histamines and suppresses histamine-induced allergic reactions

INDICATIONS:

- anaphylaxis
- allergic reactions
- urticaria
- extrapyramidal reaction

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- asthma
- COPD
- pregnancy
- nursing mothers
- acute glaucoma

SIDE EFFECTS:

- sedation
- dries bronchial secretions
- blurred vision
- headache
- palpitations
- tachycardia
- hypotension

INTERACTIONS:

- MAO inhibitors prolong CNS depression and anticholinergic effects
- CNS depressants

DOSAGE:

-25 to 50 mg IV or IM