

Adenocard (adenosine)

Indication: Paroxysmal Supraventricular Tachycardia (PSVT)

Dosing:

6 mg rapid IV bolus over 1-3 seconds followed by 20 ml 0.9% NS bolus. If tachycardia persists, may give 12 mg x 2 more doses. (each dose separated by 1-2 minutes) Each dose should be followed by 20 ml 0.9% NS. Some experts recommend reduced initial dose of adenosine (e.g. 3mg in adults).

Adverse effects: Temporary Asystole, Hypotension, Bradycardia, and Flushing

Drug interactions:

1. Caffeine and theophylline block effects of adenosine, and larger doses may be required.
2. Adenosine used in combination with Digoxin and verapamil may have additive depressant effects on SA and AV nodes, and therefore, this combination should be used with caution.
3. Tegretol increases the degree of heart block caused by adenosine.
4. Persantine blocks the metabolism of adenosine and enhances its effect. Dose reduction may be necessary.

Contraindications: Atrial fibrillation, Atrial flutter, AV block, Sick sinus syndrome, and Ventricular tachycardia

Nursing considerations:

1. Monitor Continuous ECG and blood pressure
2. Adenosine has a very short half life (less than 5 seconds)