

Dilantin (phenytoin)

Indications: Status Epilepticus / Seizures

Stable for 4 hours

Dosing: 1000mg bolus appropriate for seizing patient, but dosing should be individualized.

Adverse effects: Phlebitis, Hypotension, V. Fib, Drowsiness, Dizziness, Headache, Leukopenia, Thrombocytopenia, and Stevens Johnson Syndrome: Rash

Drug Interactions: Dosage for some HIV medications may need to be increased for a patient on phenytoin as it is an inducer.

Contraindications: Adams-Stokes syndrome, agranulocytosis, AV block, bone marrow suppression, bradycardia, bundle branch block, jaundice, methemoglobinaemia, and hydantoin hypersensitivity

Nursing Considerations:

1. Administer IV slow (50mg/min)
2. Do not mix with DEXTROSE (will precipitate)
3. Flush IV tubing with saline before and after giving phenytoin.
4. Monitor BP, HR, ECG, and mental status
5. Use large veins
6. Monitor blood levels (normal 10-20 mcg/ml)
7. May cause pink/red/brown urine color