

## ADENOSINE (*Adenocor*) (B2)

(Revised: January 2010)



<b>TYPE:</b>	Endogenous purine nucleoside, found in all body cells [S4]				
<b>PRESENTATION:</b>	6mg in 2ml – vial				
<b>ACTION:</b>	Causes transient inhibition of conduction in the heart, especially in the A-V node. Onset: 5-10 seconds. Duration: approx 10 seconds.				
<b>USE:</b>	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>Treatment of supraventricular tachycardia.</td></tr><tr><td><b>ICP</b></td><td>Not for the treatment of atrial flutter or fibrillation; however, if mistakenly administered to patients in these arrhythmias, the decrease in A-V conduction may unmask atrial activity.</td></tr></table>		Treatment of supraventricular tachycardia.	<b>ICP</b>	Not for the treatment of atrial flutter or fibrillation; however, if mistakenly administered to patients in these arrhythmias, the decrease in A-V conduction may unmask atrial activity.
	Treatment of supraventricular tachycardia.				
<b>ICP</b>	Not for the treatment of atrial flutter or fibrillation; however, if mistakenly administered to patients in these arrhythmias, the decrease in A-V conduction may unmask atrial activity.				
<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS:</b>	Common, although transient and generally minor: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Arrhythmias at the time of conversion are common (up to 55% patients) – including PVCs, PACs, sinus bradycardia, A-V blocks</li><li>2. Transient flushing of the skin</li><li>3. Mild dyspnoea</li><li>4. Chest tightness</li><li>5. Nausea</li><li>6. Headache</li><li>7. Feelings of apprehension and fear</li></ol>				
<b>CONTRA-INDICATIONS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 2° or 3° heart block</li><li>2. Known hypersensitivity</li></ol>				
<b>PRECAUTIONS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Asthma – may exacerbate bronchospasm</li><li>2. Pregnancy – use only if very poorly perfused</li><li>3. Antagonised by: - theophylline (<i>Nuelin</i>)</li><li>4. Potentiated by: - dipyridamole (<i>Persantin, Asasantin</i>) - carbamazepine (<i>Tegretol, Teril</i>)</li></ol>				

continues over

## ADENOSINE (*Adenocor*) (B2) – cont.



### DOSE:

#### ADULT

**ICP** Symptomatic adults only:

- 6mg IV – rapid bolus (over 1 – 2 seconds) – give into a fast flowing pump set
- If first dose is unsuccessful, give second dose (2 minutes between doses): 12mg IV – rapid bolus (over 1 – 2 seconds)

#### PAEDIATRIC:

**ICP** • First dose: 0.05mg/kg – given as above

- Second dose: 0.1mg/kg

### SPECIAL NOTES:

- Use only after Valsalva manoeuvre x 2
- Record a 12 lead ECG prior to use of adenosine
- Rapid injection with a pump set increases likelihood of success
- Elevate limb if possible
- Even if the arrhythmia is successfully converted, the patient should still be transported to hospital as the incidence of recurrent arrhythmias is quite high (10 – 15%)
- If patient has previously had an unpleasant (fearful) experience with adenosine, consider a pre-dose of midazolam 1 – 1.5mg IV