

Emer®

Phenobarbital BP

Description: Phenobarbital (Emer®) is a Barbiturate, nonselective, central nervous system depressant which is mainly used as an anticonvulsant as well as a sedative-hypnotic.

Mode of action: Phenobarbital (Emer®) potentiates the effect of inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA by binding with GABA receptor. It also blocks the most powerful excitatory neurotransmitter Glutamate and Na⁺ channel as well as inhibits the Ca⁺⁺ influx. Thus, these action of Phenobarbital ensures decrease in neural excitability resulting in prevention of seizures.

Pharmacokinetics: Phenobarbital (Emer®) is absorbed in varying degrees following oral, rectal or parenteral administration. But >90% absorption occurs after oral administration. Duration of action, which is related to the rate at which Phenobarbital (Emer®) is redistributed throughout the body varies among persons. It has onset of action of 1 hour or longer and duration of actions is 10 to 12 hours. The clearance of Phenobarbital (Emer®) decreases with age, hepatic dysfunction and renal diseases.

Composition

Emer® 30 mg Tablet: Each tablet contains Phenobarbital BP 30 mg.

Emer® 60 mg Tablet: Each tablet contains Phenobarbital BP 60 mg.

Emer® 100 ml Elixir: Each 5 ml contains Phenobarbital BP 20 mg.

Indications:

- Long-term anticonvulsants for the treatment of generalized tonic-clonic and cortical focal seizures, and, in the emergency control of certain acute convulsive episodes, e.g., those associated with status epilepticus, cholera, eclampsia, meningitis, tetanus, and toxic reactions to strychnine or local anesthetics.
- Sedatives
- Hypnotics for the short term treatment of Insomnia
- Pre-anesthetics.
- In Neonatal Jaundice

Dosage and administration: Suggested doses of Emer® for specific indications are as follows:

a. Pediatric oral Dosage:

Preoperative: 1 to 3 mg/kg.

Anticonvulsant: 1 mg to 6 mg / Kg per day.

b. Adult oral Dosage:

Daytime sedative: 30 to 120 mg daily in 2 to 3 divided doses.

Bedtime hypnotic: 100 to 320 mg.

Anticonvulsant: 50 to 100 mg 2 to 3 times daily.

Contraindications: Phenobarbital is contraindicated in patients with known phenobarbital hypersensitivity, history of addiction, severe liver impairment.

Side effects: The most common adverse reaction is somnolence. Other less frequent adverse reactions are agitation, confusion, hyperkinesia, ataxia, CNS depression, nervousness, hallucination, insomnia, anxiety, dizziness, apnea, bradycardia, nausea, vomiting and constipation.

Use in pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category D. Phenobarbital can cause fetal damage when administered to a pregnant woman. If this drug is used during pregnancy, or if the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, the patient should be in risk of the potential hazard to the fetus.

Lactation

Caution should be exercised when phenobarbital is administered to a nursing woman as small amounts of phenobarbital are excreted in the milk.

Precautions: Phenobarbital may be habit forming. Tolerance and psychological and physical dependence may occur with continuing use. Phenobarbital should be administered with caution, if at all, to patients who are mentally depressed, have suicidal tendencies, or a history of drug abuse. In patients with hepatic damage, Phenobarbital should be administered with caution and initially reduced doses. It should not be administered to patients showing the premonitory signs of hepatic coma.

Drug interaction: The concomitant use of alcohol & other CNS antidepresants may produce additive CNS depressant effects. It may reduce effectiveness of corticosteroid.

Over dosage: The toxic dose of barbiturates varies considerably. In general, an oral dose of 1 gm of most barbiturates produces serious poisoning in an adult. Death commonly occurs after 2 to 10 gm of ingested barbiturate. Acute overdosage with barbiturates is manifested by CNS and respiratory depression. Treatment of overdosage is mainly supportive and immediate hospitalization is necessary.

Storage

Keep out of reach of children. Store in a dry place, below 25°C temperature and protected from light.

Packaging

Emer® 30 mg Tablet: Each carton contains 10X10 tablets in blister pack.

Emer® 60 mg Tablet: Each carton contains 10X10 tablets in blister pack.

Emer® 100 ml Elixir: Each pack contains 100 ml elixir in bottle.

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