

The logo consists of the letters 'RX' in a large, white, serif font, centered within a dark gray square.

**Drug Name: Etomidate**

**Trade Name: Amidate**

**Class:**

- Anesthetic
- Non-narcotic sedative hypnotic

**Mechanism of Action:**

- Etomidate appears to facilitate GABA-minergic neurotransmission by increasing the number of available GABA receptors, possibly by displacing endogenous inhibitors of GABA binding (*Remembering that GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter*)
- Etomidate is short acting and it's effects are at least partially due to depression of the reticular activating system
- Induces sedation & amnesia
- It has minimal cardiac & respiratory depressive effects and causes no histamine release

**Indications:**

- Induction agent for intubation

**Contraindications:**

- Hypersensitivity
- Labor / Imminent Delivery
- Induction agent for intubation in patients with septic shock

**Precautions:**

- Elderly
- Hepatic/Renal disease
- Pregnancy (C)
- Safety not established under the age of 10

**Available Forms**

- 2 mg/ml vials

**Dosage:**

**Adults:**

- Intubation: 0.3 mg/kg slow IV over 30-60 seconds (usual dose is 20-30 mg) repeat as needed. Maximum dose 0.6 mg/kg

**Pediatrics:**

- 2- 8 years of age--0.3 mg/kg slow IV over 30-60 seconds. Maximum dose 0.6 mg/kg

**Onset:**

- 30 seconds

**Duration:**

- 3-5 minutes

**Side Effects:**

- N/V (especially with rapid administration)
- Dyspnea (*mostly relieved with airway positioning*)
- Dysrhythmias
- Hypotension or Hypertension
- Temporary involuntary muscle movements

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**Interactions:**

- Potentiates with other CNS depressants.
- Concurrent use of antihypertensives agents may cause hypotension

**PEARLS:**

- *As with other sedative hypnotics, carefully monitor airway, breathing, & circulation when administering etomidate (i.e. SpO<sub>2</sub>, EKG, blood pressure). Be prepared to manage the airway aggressively*
- *Can suppress adrenal hormone synthesis.*
- *Should be given through a large, proximal vein to avoid pain at the injection site*
- *Etomidate is not currently recommended for pediatrics under the age of 2*