

RX

Drug Name: Phenylephrine
Nickname: Neosynephrine
Class:

Nasal decongestant
Sympathomimetic amine

Mechanism of Action:

After intranasal administration, phenylephrine stimulates alpha-adrenergic receptors on the nasal mucosa (direct effect) causing vasoconstriction of local vessels. The vasoconstrictive action decreases mucosal edema, thereby leading to a decongestant effect.

Indications:

Facilitation of Nasal Intubation. Minimizes bleeding.

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity to sympathomimetic amines

Precautions: *(most are related to IV/IM use which is not normally available pre-hospital)*

Child < 6	Increased ICP
Geriatrics	Hyperthyroidism
Diabetes	Pregnancy (C)
CVD	Glaucoma
HTN	

Dosage:

Adults:

2-3 gtts or sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%)

Pediatrics: (seldom used because of the difficulty and complication rate of nasal intubation in pediatrics)

6-12 yrs--1-2 gtts or sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%)

Onset:

Immediate

Duration:

30 minutes-4 hours

Side Effects:

Irritation	Dryness
Sneezing	Anxiety
<i>Side effects below are secondary to IM/IV use:</i>	
Restlessness	Dizziness
Tremors	Headache

Interactions:

Few when used in the adult patient nasally (not well absorbed into systemic circulation)

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PEARLS:

- More easily absorbed into systemic circulation by pediatrics
- To avoid the spread of infection, do not use the container for more than one person.
- Take the time to use this in the setting of nasal intubation; you'll reduce the incidence of uncontrollable hemorrhage significantly.