

This document is for **reference only**. Please refer to SWO's for specific indications, dosages, and applications



Drug Name: Phenylephrine
Nickname: Neo-Synephrine
Revised: November 1, 2018
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.
Refractory or severe non-traumatic epistaxis

Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity to sympathomimetic amines

Precautions:

Recent facial, sinus, or brain surgery (<14 days)
Presence of Acute Coronary Syndrome symptoms
Ulcers, burns, and cancer to the face/sinuses/upper airway

Child < 5
Geriatrics
Diabetes
CVD
HTN

Increased ICP
Hyperthyroidism
Pregnancy (C)
Glaucoma

Dosage:

To facilitate nasal airway placement:

Adults:

2-4 sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%)

Pediatrics: (Age > 5) -seldom used because of the difficulty and complication rate of nasal intubation in pediatrics)

1-2 sprays to nasal mucosa (0.25%)

Treatment of epistaxis

Adults:

1 spray each nare to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%), followed by saturated gauze packing of the anterior nares

Pediatrics: (Age > 5)

1 spray each nare to nasal mucosa (0.25%-1.0%), followed by saturated gauze packing of the anterior nares

Onset:

Immediate

Duration:

30 minutes-4 hours

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Side Effects:

Irritation

Sneezing

Side effects below are secondary to IM/IV use:

Restlessness

Tremors

Dryness

Anxiety

Dizziness

Headache

Interactions:

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

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.
- Administration of Neo-Synephrine *for epistaxis* does not require EKG monitoring, although other symptoms and presentations may.

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