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## VECURONIUM BROMIDE (Norcuron®)

### Description

Vecuronium Bromide is a nondepolarizing agent that achieves its skeletal muscle paralysis by competing with acetylcholine for cholinergic receptor sites and binding with the nicotinic cholinergic receptor at the postjunctional membrane. Primarily used during general anesthesia to facilitate endotracheal intubation and to achieve paralysis to facilitate mechanical ventilation for appropriately sedated patients. Poor liver function can cause prolonged effects. Vecuronium is prepared as a lyophilized powder requiring the reconstitution of the drug before administration. Vecuronium is a pregnancy category C drug.

### Indications

- **Only authorized Paramedics** may administer.
- Temporary paralysis to achieve or maintain elective intubation.

### Contraindications

- Known allergy to Vecuronium.

### Adverse Reactions

- Hypotension
- Hypertension
- Bronchospasm
- Bradycardia

### Dosage and Administration

**Adult and Pediatric:** RSI – (Rapid Sequence Induction)

- 0.1 mg/kg IV, with the onset of intubation conditions occurring in less than 2 to 3 minutes

**Adult and Pediatric:** continued paralyzation for the intubated patient:

- 1 mcg/kg/minute (0.06 mg/kg/hour) by IV infusion

### Special Considerations

- The safety profile of vecuronium more favorable than most other paralytics.
- Use cautiously in patients with known hepatic disease, pulmonary hypertension and valvular heart disease.
- Vecuronium correlates with the least amount of histamine release (compared to other paralytic agents). Use caution when administering vecuronium to patients with bronchospasm and asthma due to the excessive salivation that can occur with histamine release.
- Caution is advised when administering vecuronium to patients with burns ≥ 20% of their total body surface area.