

IPECAC

PHARMACOLOGY & ACTIONS:

- Ipecac alkaloids act locally on the gastric mucosa and centrally on the chemoreceptor trigger zone to induce vomiting.
- Effective in approximately 20-30 minutes.

INDICATIONS:

- Ingested poisons or drugs

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Unconscious patients or rapidly diminishing level of consciousness
- Patients who are seizing
- Ingestion of strong acids, alkalis, silver nitrate, hydrocarbons, iodides, phenothiazine, or strychnine.

ADMINISTRATION:

- Adult dose: 30 ml PO
- Pediatric dose: 15 ml PO

SIDE EFFECTS & SPECIAL NOTES:

- Emetic action is improved if 2-3 glasses of water are given just before or just after ipecac is administered.
- Emetic action may be enhanced by ambulation.
- Have suction ready.
- Patient should be in the lateral recovery position or sitting.
- May not be successful in phenothiazine overdoses due to strong antiemetic action
- Gag reflex may be unreliable indicator of patient's ability to protect their airway. Testing for gag reflex in a patient with depressed level of consciousness may cause aspiration.

CLASS: C

PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Overdose