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Education

Drug Cupboard: Rocuronium Bromide (Esmeron)

CD Keys

Rocuronium bromide is a non-depolarising muscle relaxant used at induction of anaesthesia to facilitate both rapid sequence and routine intubation procedure. It is supplied in a 5-ml vial containing 50-mg rocuronium bromide injection, and is kept in the drug fridge. The dosage for tracheal intubation is 0.6 mg/kg IV and the duration of the block is 30–40 minutes.

Rocuronium bromide is a fast onset, intermediate acting non-depolarising neuromuscular blocking agent, which acts at the neuromuscular junction preventing the chemical neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, from carrying nerve impulses across the synapse to the motor end plate of the muscle.

Like other non-depolarising muscle relaxants, rocuronium requires reversal with neostigmine, a cholinesterase inhibitor or sugammadex, a selective relaxant binding drug. Sugammadex is given 3 minutes after injection of rocuronium for immediate and complete reversal. The combination of rocuronium and sugammadex is useful in a failed intubation as recovery from a muscle relaxant block could be achieved quickly.

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