



Drug Therapy Protocols: Benztropine (benzatropine)

Policy code	DTP_BEN_0120
Date	January, 2020
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to benztropine (benzatropine) administration.
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
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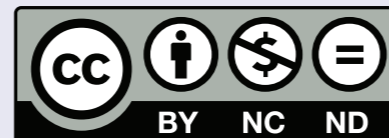
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Benzatropine

January, 2020

Drug class

Anticholinergic

Pharmacology

Benzatropine is synthesised from components of the atropine and diphenhydramine drug molecules. It possesses strong anticholinergic and antihistamine properties whilst also inhibiting dopamine re-uptake. These properties enable the drug to restore some balance between acetylcholine and dopamine in the central nervous system, thereby alleviating acute dystonias.^[1-3]

Metabolism

Hepatic.^[1]

Indications

- Acute dystonic reaction

Contraindications

- Allergy and/or Adverse Drug Reaction
- Tardive Dyskinesia
- Children < 3 years

Precautions

- Sedative effects of other drugs may be enhanced
- Children < 12 years

Side effects

- Dilated pupils
- Dry mouth
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Tachycardia
- Toxic psychosis including confusion and visual hallucinations
- Urinary retention and/or dysuria

Presentation

- Vial, 2 mg/2 mL *benzatropine*

Onset (IV)	Duration (IV)	Half-life
1–2 minutes	1–2 hours	≈ 16 hours

Schedule

- S4 (Restricted drugs).

Routes of administration

Intramuscular injection (IM) CCP

Intravenous injection (IV) CCP

Adult dosages

Acute dystonic reaction

CCP

IM/IV

1 – 2 mg
Single dose only.

Paediatric dosages

Acute dystonic reaction

CCP

IM/IV

≥ 3 years – 20 microg/kg
Single dose only.

Note: QAS officers are **NOT** authorised to administer benztropine to paediatric patients < 3 years.

Special notes

- Ambulance officers must only administer medications for the listed indications and dosing range. Any consideration for treatment outside the listed scope of practice requires mandatory approval via the QAS Clinical Consult and Advice Line.
- Because of its atropine-like side effects, benztropine is contraindicated in children < 3 years and should be used with caution in older children.^[1]
- There is no significant difference in the onset of effect following IM or IV injection.^[2]