

# Emergency Drugs of Radiology department

Emergency  
Drugs



# Emergency in Radiology Department

**Medical emergencies occurring in the radiology department may be due to:**

1. Medication or radiographic contrast given
2. Procedure-related complications
3. Deterioration of pre-existing morbidities

## Emergency in Radiology Department...

Due to this, Patients may develop cardiac arrhythmias, hypotension, inadequate ventilation or adverse drug/radiographic contrast reactions. Complications arise from sedative drug administration, invasive procedures and human error; poor monitoring and organizational failings may contribute.

If a complication occurs, rapid recognition of the problem and effective management are essential.

# Prevention and Treatment

Serious emergencies are fortunately rare in routine radiological practice and, consequently, the individual radiologist may gain little personal experience in dealing with them. However, with the increasing complexity of radiological procedures, these emergencies are likely to become more frequent. They may arise suddenly and proceed to a rapidly fatal termination if inadequately treated. It is therefore essential that every radiological department should be organized to deal with any emergency immediately it arises. In this presentation, we will discuss the drugs used in case of these emergencies and their uses.

# Emergency Drugs used in Radiology

- Whenever there is sudden onset of allergic reactions after the injection of contrast, crash cart is rushed into for management.
- The crash cart contains various emergency drugs and equipment for management for those crucial events which includes:
  - Adrenaline – For allergic reactions
  - Atropine -anti-arythmatic
  - Buscopan -For pain reliving
  - Hydrocortisone -For allergic reactions
  - Dopamine -to increase blood pressure
  - Sodium bicarbonate -for electrolyte imbalance
  - Diazepam -for sedation
  - Avil – as anti- allergic agent

## Points To Remember

- Major emergency occurs in radiology if patient suddenly collapses on procedure table after injection of iodinated contrast media.
- Before administering ICM proper patient history of allergic reaction must be taken and adequate preparation must be done prior to study.
- Radiologist, consultant physician must be informed about patient's condition and risk associated with injection of ICM.
- Radiology nurse must be prepared for any adverse reaction and medication must be kept ready.
- In case of sudden cardiac arrest, Basic Life Support and Advance Life Support protocols must immediately come in action and if required the hospital code for cardiac arrest must be announced for seeking help.