PROTOCOL IV.35: Haloperidol, (Haldol)

Class: Antipsychotic

Therapeutic Action/Pharmacodynamics: Haloperidol is a potent, long – acting antipsychotic agent with pharmacologic actions similar to those of the phenothiazines but with a high incident of extrapyramidal effects and less hypotensive and relatively low sedative activity. While its exact mechanism is unclear, it appears to block the dopamine receptors in the brain associated with mood and behavior. It exerts strong antiemetic effects and impairs central thermoregulation. It also produces week central anticholinergic effects and transient orthostatic hypotension.

- Onset: 30 – 45 minutes
- Peak effects: 10 – 20 minutes (IM)
- Half – Life: 3 – 35 hours

Indications: To manage acute psychotic disorders.

1. Adult dose: 5 mg IM, may be repeated once
2. Pediatric dose: Consult with OLMCP for use and dosing

Contraindications and Precautions: Severe hemorrhage, shock, or known hypersensitivity.

Adverse/Side Effects: Haloperidol is contraindicated in Parkinson’s disease, seizure disorders, coma, alcoholism, severe mental depression, CNS depression, thyrotoxicosis. Safe use during pregnancy in nursing mothers is not established. Use with caution in elderly or debilitated patients or those with urinary retention, glaucoma, severe cardiovascular disorders; in patients receiving anticonvulsant, anticoagulant, or lithium therapy.

Interactions: CNS depressants, opiates, and alcohol may increase CNS depression. Haloperidol may antagonize the activity of oral anticoagulants. Anticholinergics may increase intraocular pressure. Methyldopa may precipitate dementia.

Prehospital Considerations:

1. Haloperidol should be administered by deep IM injection into a large muscle.
2. Have patient recumbent at time of injection.
3. In emergency situations where the patient’s behavior poses an immediate risk to rescuers and bystanders, the initial IM injection may be given through the patient’s clothing to minimize needle – stick injuries to rescuers.
4. Dystonic reactions are common with Haldol. Benadryl should be readily available.

How Supplied:

1. 5 mg/ml vial.