

Medication Name

Glucagon

GlucaGen

Therapeutic Use

Hypoglycemia from an insulin overdose

Adverse Drug Reactions

Gastrointestinal effects (nausea, vomiting)

Hypotension

Anaphylaxis

Nursing Interventions

Turn unconscious clients on their side to prevent aspiration from vomiting.

Monitor for persistent nausea and vomiting.

Monitor fluid and carbohydrate intake.

Assess neurologic status throughout treatment

Monitor for signs of hypoglycemia before and during treatment

Drug Administration

Give IV, IM, or subcutaneously.

Expect unconscious clients to regain consciousness about 20 min after IV administration.

Provide food after clients regain consciousness and can swallow.

Be aware that, for severe hypoglycemia, IV glucose is the treatment of choice because it acts faster than glucagon does.

Patient Education

Warn client and family that vomiting is common after administration of glucagon

Explain need to keep client on side until consciousness is regained

Encourage oral intake when tolerated to prevent another episode of hypoglycemia

Educate client on signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia and how to prevent severe hypoglycemic event by carrying sugar packets or candy for emergencies.

Contraindications

Hypoglycemia from starvation (due to the lack of stored glycogen)

Pheochromocytoma

Hypersensitivity to sulfites used as preservatives (wine, foods), other drugs related to sulfonamides (acetazolamide, thiazide diuretics, tolbutamide)

Precautions

Cardiovascular disorders

Adrenal insufficiency

Interactions

Effects of oral anticoagulants (warfarin) increase.

Negates effects of insulin

Phenytoin inhibits glucagon

