Guidelines for Use of Chloral Hydrate (Noctec)®

Recommended Neonatal Dose, Route, and Interval

- 25-75mg/kg/dose PO or rectally (administer 45 minutes prior to procedure)

Chief Indications

1. Sedative/hypnotic for short-term use only, has no analgesic effects.

Possible Adverse Reactions

1. Gastric irritation
2. Paradoxical excitement
3. Bradycardia up to 24 hours after a single dose in former premature infant.
4. Vasodilation, hypotension, cardiac arrhythmias, myocardial depression.
5. Respiratory depression
6. Indirect hyperbilirubinemia with chronic use

CONTRAINDICATIONS/PRECAUTIONS:

1. Hypersensitivity to chloral hydrate
2. Cardiac disease, gastritis, obstructive airway disease
3. Use with caution in patients with hepatic and/or renal disease due to possible accumulation of active metabolites with chronic administration
4. The metabolite of chloral hydrate has a long elimination half life. Multiple dosing results in accumulation of this toxic metabolite which may result in arrhythmias
5. The combination of chloral hydrate and furosemide may cause: vasodilation, flushing, tachycardia, hypotension, or hypertension.

Nursing Implications

1. Assess level of sedation.
2. Onset: 10-20 minutes
3. Peak effect: within 30-60 minutes
4. **Oral preparation should be diluted** or administered after feeding to reduce gastric irritation.

Special Considerations and Calculations

1. Chloral hydrate is available in syrup as 100 mg/ml concentration.

References:

1. Neofax 2010

Reviewed/Revised: 03/2011 by