

**Classification**

Antihistamine

**Prehospital Indications**

Allergic Reaction: itching and/or hives  
Dystonic Reaction

**Other Common Indications**

Over-the-counter sleep aid, prevention or treatment of motion sickness, nausea and vomiting  
Mild Parkinson's disease  
Prevention of extrapyramidal symptoms in patients on antipsychotic medications

**Adult Dose**

**50mg slow IV push or 50mg IM**

**Pediatric Dose**

**1mg/kg slow IV push** one time, dose per *MCG 1309*, if unable to obtain venous access **1mg/kg deep IM**, dose per *MCG 1309*

**Mechanism of Action**

Histamine H1- receptor antagonist of effector cells in respiratory tract, blood vessels, and GI smooth muscle. Possesses anticholinergic properties, resulting in antidyskinetic properties.

**Pharmacokinetics**

Onset is 15-30 min

**Contraindications**

None

**Interactions**

Increase central nervous system depression when used with alcohol and other central nervous system depressants, or MAO inhibitors

**Adverse Effects**

Confusion  
Drowsiness  
Mild hypotension  
Palpitation  
Paradoxical excitement in children  
Tachycardia

**Prehospital Considerations**

- Administer injection deep IM into a large muscle group (lateral thigh, gluteus).
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) does not treat anaphylaxis/airway edema; if signs of anaphylaxis present, administer epinephrine IM
- Use with caution in elderly as they have increased adverse effects such as confusion, drowsiness
- May cause paradoxical agitation in pediatric patients.