



EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa 2026 Medical Control Board Treatment Protocols



Approved 9/17/25, Effective 1/15/26, replaces all prior versions

16P – ETOMIDATE (AMIDATE®)

PARAMEDIC

Class: Sedative - Hypnotic (non-narcotic/opiate; non-benzodiazepine; non-barbiturate)

Actions/Pharmacodynamics: Etomidate is an intravenous hypnotic drug without analgesia. Etomidate is safe to use in patients with cardiac illness and patients with traumatic injuries. Etomidate has little to no effect upon myocardial metabolism, cardiac output, or peripheral circulation. Etomidate has been shown to reduce cerebral blood flow, cerebral oxygen consumption, and intracranial pressure – helpful in head injury situations.

Indications: Medication Assisted Intubation (2G)

Contraindications: Known hypersensitivity to etomidate.

Pharmacokinetics: Rapid onset of action, seen as desired sedation within as little as 10-15 seconds, but nearly always within less than 1 minute. Duration of action, based upon a standard dose of 0.3 mg/kg (70 kg adult dose of 20 mg) is 5-15 minutes.

Side Effects: 1) Transient skeletal muscle movements, called myoclonus, have been reported in 10-80% of patients. Most of these movements are mild to moderate in severity. Rarely, these movements are severe in motion and force, though transient. Most movements are bilateral and can involve any part of the body. Results of electroencephalographic studies taken during periods when these muscle movements were observed have failed to reveal true seizure activity. 2) Transient venous pain at injection site, due to propylene glycol, a solvent in Etomidate preparations. 3) Nausea and/or vomiting. 4) Very rarely, hypoventilation and apnea, though Etomidate generally preserves the baseline respiratory activity. 5) Very rarely, hypotension and when seen, usually is due to too rapid IVP administration.

Dosage: Medication Assisted Intubation - Adult (2G)

0.3 mg/kg IVP/IOP over 15-30 seconds, given just prior to intubation.

How Supplied: 40 mg/20 mL (2 mg/mL) vial or pre-filled syringe
(Always check concentration and dose per container at time of patient medication administration)

Special Comment: Repeated doses of Etomidate should be avoided to minimize its effect upon adrenal function. Repeated doses and continuous infusions of etomidate have been linked to adrenal suppression.