16II – NOREPINEPHRINE (LEVOPHED®)

PARAMEDIC

Class: Vasoconstrictor

Actions/Pharmacodynamics: Stimulates alpha receptors in the peripheral vasculature, producing vasoconstriction-related increase in systemic blood pressure. Concurrent beta receptor stimulation may produce increases in heart rate and mild bronchodilation, though norepinephrine is a weaker beta stimulator than dopamine.

Indications:
Dyspnea – Congestive Heart Failure (Cardiogenic Shock) (3E)
Post Cardiac Arrest Treatment (Cardiogenic Shock) (4J)
Acute Coronary Syndrome (Cardiogenic Shock) (5C)
Sepsis (Septic Shock) (9B)
Dialysis-Related Issues (9E)
For all listed situations, indication is hypotension (adult = systolic < 100 mmHg) due to cardiogenic, septic, or neurogenic shock either refractory to intravascular fluid boluses or in which intravascular fluid bolusing is contraindicated (eg. pulmonary edema).

Contraindications: Hypertension

Pharmacokinetics: Onset of action within 5 minutes after IV/IO infusion initiated. Rapid metabolism, requiring ongoing IV/IO infusion to maintain clinical effects.

Side Effects: Few, though at higher doses, symptoms may include headache, palpitations, tachycardia, chest pain, and eventual hypertension. Bradycardia can result reflexively from an increase in blood pressure.

Dosage:
Dyspnea – Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) – Adult (3E)
Post Cardiac Arrest Treatment - Cardiogenic Shock - Adult (4J)
Acute Coronary Syndrome – Adult (5C)
Sepsis - Septic Shock - Adult (9B)
Dialysis-Related Issues - Adult (9E)
For hypotension (shock) refractory to fluids or fluids contraindicated
Start at 2-4 mcg/minute - see dosage chart - titrated to a systolic B/P ≥ 100 mmHg. Maximum infusion rate is 12 mcg/minute.

Norepinephrine Infusion Adult Dosage Chart
rates reflect using a microdrip (60 drops/mL) set:

mcg/min	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
drops/min	15	22	30	37	45	52	60	67	75	82	90

PROTOCOL 16II: Norepinephrine (Levophed®), cont.

Dosage, cont.: **Dyspnea – Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) - Pediatric (3E)**
Post Cardiac Arrest Treatment - Cardiogenic Shock - Pediatric (4J)
Sepsis - Septic Shock - Pediatric (9B)
Dialysis-Related Issues - Pediatric (9E)
For hypotension (shock) refractory to fluids or fluids contraindicated
****OLMC Order Only**

How Supplied: 4 mg/4 mL ampule or vial.
Use only 2 mL in a 250 mL bag of D5W.
(8 mcg/mL concentration)
(Always check concentration and dose per container at time of patient medication administration)

Special Comments: In the setting of tachydysrhythmia-induced cardiogenic shock, treat per Protocol 5G – Tachycardia - Unstable. Ensure aggressive fluid resuscitation is accomplished (unless contraindicated) prior to norepinephrine use.

Norepinephrine should be given into a large, patent vein. The vein of choice for EMS use is the antecubital vein, as this will decrease the risk of overlying skin necrosis. Do not administer norepinephrine through an IV in the hand or leg. These veins are more likely to be affected by vaso-occlusive diseases and more prone to ischemic complications. Administration through IO in the proximal tibia or humeral head is permitted.

If local extravasation occurs, notify the receiving physician of the following FDA advisement of antidote to extravasation ischemia:

"To prevent sloughing/necrosis in peripheral ischemic areas promptly use syringe w/ fine hypodermic needle to liberally infiltrate area w/ 10-15 mL saline solution containing 5-10 mg phentolamine; sympathetic blockade causes immediate conspicuous local hyperemic changes if area infiltrated within 12 hours."

Safety in pregnancy not firmly established, though when clinically indicated the benefits outweigh risks. Safety in pediatrics not firmly established and OLMC is to be consulted prior to pediatric usage.

Avoid mixing in normal saline, as NS promotes loss of potency through oxidation of norepinephrine.