Promethazine (Phenergan)

Promethazine is a phenothiazine with good antiemetic effects. Like all phenothiazines it can cause anti-cholinergic effects such as dry mouth, blurred vision, decrease intestinal motility, and urinary retention.

Indications and Administration

1. Treatment and prevention of nausea and vomiting.

    a. **Adult (under 65)**- 12.5mg slow IV push, 25mg IM.

    b. **Adult (over 65)-** 6.25mg slow IV push, 12.5mg IM.

    c. **Peds (over 2)-** 0.25 – 0.5 mg/kg slow IV push or IM.

    d. Repeat doses as needed.

Notes

1. Promethazine can cause significant drowsiness and sedation, especially in pediatric and elderly patients.
2. Promethazine can also be useful as an adjunct to pain management as it can potentiate pain relief when given with narcotics. It can also potentiate respiratory depression and hypoxia when they are already a problem.
3. Promethazine can produce dystonic and restless reactions. Both are treated with Benadryl (diphenhydramine).
4. Promethazine is highly irritating to vascular tissues and should be diluted in at least 10cc normal saline whenever possible to prevent phlebitis.