



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT PROCEDURES
**PILOT PROJECT: KETAMINE ANALGESIA FOR AIR
RESCUE PARAMEDICS**

#: PR- 70
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Original Date: 02/16/2024
Revised: _____

INDICATION:

Ketamine is indicated for relief of moderate to severe pain (Pain Scale 4-10) or if the patient requests pain medicine during air rescue operations. It should be administered when the patient can't tolerate narcotics or refuses them, paramedics cannot establish an IV, the patient is hypotensive, or the patient's airway/ventilatory status may be at risk. Ketamine may be administered either by the IM or IN route.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Pregnancy

Known allergy to ketamine

Age < 15

Concurrent alcohol or drug intoxication – this is a relative contraindication. If the intoxication is not significant and they are not lethargic or otherwise impaired, ketamine can be authorized after base hospital contact.

GCS < 14

PROCEDURE:

1. Confirm that administering fentanyl would not be safe or appropriate choice in an air rescue situation when the patient is suffering from moderate to severe pain.
2. Confirm that the patient has no contraindications to receiving ketamine.
3. Standing Order: administer ketamine either IM or IN after aspirating the correct dose from a vial containing ketamine in an appropriate concentration for IM or IN administration.
 - For IM injection, the ketamine dose is 0.5 mg/kg with a maximum dose of 50 mg. May repeat one time in 15 minutes.
 - For IN administration, the ketamine dose is 0.5 mg/kg with a maximum dose of 50 mg. May repeat one time in 15 minutes.
4. While either the IM or IN route can be used, IM injection provides better bioavailability to the patient and is the preferred method of choice. If an IM injection is not possible or practical, IN administration can be performed.
5. Documentation
 - Patient weight
 - Pain Scale pre- and post-administration
 - Patient request for pain medication
 - Pertinent negative assessment for significant intoxication
 - Response to medication
 - Ongoing monitoring
 - Vital signs, pulse oximetry, level of consciousness, cardiac rhythm

Approved:

Review Date: N/A
Final Date for Implementation: 04/01/2024
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