

## Guide to Selection and Dosing of Neuromuscular Blockers

Indication	Recommended NMB	Dose
Single dose for procedure, mechanical ventilation or hypothermia	Rocuronium	0.6-1.2 mg/kg (round to nearest 10 mg)
Continuous infusion for hypothermia or mechanical ventilation.	Rocuronium	0.5-0.7 mg/kg/hr
Continuous infusion for hypothermia or mechanical ventilation with RENAL/HEPATIC dysfunction	Cisatracurium	0.1 mg/kg bolus then 5-10 mg/hr  (0.03-0.6 mg/kg/hr)

**Table 2. Comparison of Two Nondepolarizing NMBAs<sup>a</sup>**

Parameter	Cisatracurium	Rocuronium
Structural Classification	benzylisoquinolinium agent	aminosteroidal agent
Bolus dosing <sup>b</sup>	0.1-0.2 mg/kg	0.6-1.2 mg/kg
Continuous infusion dosing	0.18 mg/kg/hr (initial rate); 0.06-0.12 mg/kg/hr (maintenance rate)	0.48-0.72 mg/kg/hr
Time to maximal blockade (min)	2-3	1-2
Duration <sup>c</sup> (min)	45-60	30
Elimination	Hofmann elimination	33% renal, <75% hepatic
Active metabolites	None	None
Histamine release	No	No
Vagal blockade	No	At higher doses
Prolonged blockade	Rare	No

<sup>a</sup>Table adapted from: Warr J, Thiboutot Z, Rose L, *et al.* Current therapeutic uses, pharmacology, and clinical considerations of neuromuscular blocking agents for critically ill adults. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2011 Sept;45(9):1116-26.

<sup>b</sup>Ideal body weight

<sup>c</sup>Time to recovery of 25% control

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