

## Neuromuscular blockers

### Description

Neuromuscular blocking drugs stop the muscles from working for a short period of time. They relax the skeletal muscles during surgery or other procedures that call for general anesthesia. They also can be used when a patient must have a tube put into the throat to help with breathing (intubation). All of the drugs are given as a clear liquid into the vein (IV).

- Atracurium (Tracrium<sup>®</sup>)
- Mivacurium (Mivacron<sup>®</sup>)
- Pancuronium (Pavulon<sup>®</sup>)
- Rocuronium (Zemuron<sup>®</sup>)
- Succinylcholine (Anectine<sup>®</sup>)
- Vecuronium (Norcuron<sup>®</sup>)

### Possible side effects

- Flushing, rash
- Low blood pressure
- Increased heart rate
- Feeling dizzy
- Muscle spasms
- Burning and pain at injection site
- Hiccups
- Trouble breathing
- Muscle weakness

These are the most common side effects, but there may be others. Please report all side effects to the doctor or nurse. **A doctor will carefully supervise the giving of these drugs.**

*This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.*