

BCCH CAPE Unit Pharmacological Management of Aggressive Children & Adolescents

****DRAFT****

Observed Agitation or Aggression Presenting Risk to Patient or Others

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***Caution: algorithm may not be appropriate for neuropsychiatric patients (who are often more sensitive to neurological adverse effects of high-potency antipsychotic medications)

Apply Non-Pharmacologic Interventions First

Pre-Adolescent (≤ 12 years) or Moderately Threatening Behavior

Adolescent (> 12 years) or Severe Threatening Behavior

Anxiety or older patient

Agitation or younger patient

Is patient willing/able to take oral medications?

lorazepam
0.025-0.1 mg/kg/dose*
PO/SL/IM to max 2 mg/dose
May repeat q30min PO x1 dose
Caution: high risk for paradoxical disinhibition reactions in young patients given benzodiazepines
*Round dose to nearest 0.5 mg

chlorpromazine**
0.5-1 mg/kg/dose* PO
to max 75 mg per dose
OR
quetiapine
12.5-50 mg PO (child)
or 25-100 mg PO (adolescent)
OR
risperidone
0.125-0.5 mg PO (child)
or 0.25- 1 mg PO (adolescent)
(may give as oral dissolving N-Tab)
May repeat q30min PO x1 dose

loxapine (IM/PO)
0.1-0.2 mg/kg/dose* IM/PO
to max 25 mg/dose
+ lorazepam (see left)
Consider
benztropine 0.5-1 mg PO/IM x1 dose

haloperidol
0.05-0.1 mg/kg/dose* IM
to max 5 mg/dose
+ benztropine
1-2 mg IM
+ lorazepam (see left)

Poor Response

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*Round dose to nearest 6.25 mg

**Caution: significant drop in blood pressure, tachycardia and dizziness may occur with chlorpromazine or quetiapine (especially with repeated doses)

*Round dose to nearest 2.5 mg

(Must give in separate syringes)

*Round dose to nearest 0.5 mg

(Must give in separate syringes)

Repeated IM doses (> 2 per day or > 3 per hospitalization) and/or repeated IM administration is a high risk to staff/patient?

Consider:
zuclopenthixol Acuphase
1-2 mg/kg/dose* IM
to usual max 100 mg/dose
Caution: Not in neuroleptic naïve patients
Usual Duration of action: 48- 72 HOURS
Consider benztropine 0.5-1 mg PO/IM daily x3 days
*Round dose to nearest 25 mg (Must administer in separate syringes)

IF ANY IM injection given (lorazepam, loxapine, zuclopenthixol or haloperidol), or if patient has an unusual medication response, or requires oral doses greater than:
lorazepam 4 mg or chlorpromazine 150 mg or quetiapine 200 mg or risperidone 2 mg or loxapine 50 mg

Contact Psychiatrist for further orders

**chlorpromazine injection is no longer available in Canada as of November 2016