Racemic EPI

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Sympathomimetic

How it works: Arterial constriction with positive inotropic and chronotropic effects

Relaxes bronchial smooth muscle and blocks the histamine response

USE IT FOR

- Moderate to severe respiratory distress associated with croup

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypersensitivity
- Must observe for 2-4 hours after administration (per page)
- Monitor BP, pulse, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **0.5 mL in 3 mL normal saline, nebulized**

Peds: **[dose not stated in original text]**

Repeat: **[dose not stated in original text]**

WATCH FOR

- Headache
- Palpitations / tachycardia
- Anxiety
- Hypertension
- Nausea/vomiting
- Rebound edema

PEARLS

- Onset 1-5 min; half-life 1-3 hours; peak listed as unknown (per page)

Take Home Message:

Nebulized racemic epinephrine eases croup's respiratory distress — 0.5 mL in 3 mL saline — then observe 2-4 hours for rebound.