Phenylephrine (Neosynephrine)

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Synthetic Sympathomimetic Agent

Mechanism: Vasoconstriction — alpha (a1) response; topical vasoconstriction; a1 smooth muscle constriction

USE IT FOR

- Control of severe epistaxis
- Premedication for nasal intubation/NPA, to prevent epistaxis

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: hypertension, thyroid disease, hypersensitivity
- Precaution: enlarged prostate with dysuria

DOSE

Adult: **Epistaxis: 2 sprays in each nostril. Nasal intubation/NPA premedication: 1–2 sprays before the procedure**

Peds: **Not stated on original page**

Repeat: **Not stated on original page**

WATCH FOR

- Nasal burning/stinging
- Sneezing
- Increased nasal discharge
- Headache

PEARLS

- Adverse effects are minimal when Neosynephrine is applied topically

Take Home Message:

Topical phenylephrine shrinks nasal vessels: two sprays per nostril for severe epistaxis, one to two before a nasal intubation or NPA.