Sodium Bicarb

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Alkalinizing agent

How it works: Increases plasma bicarbonate, buffers excess hydrogen ion concentration, and raises blood pH

Reverses the clinical manifestations of acidosis (per page)

USE IT FOR

- Tricyclic antidepressant overdose
- Severe acidosis refractory to hyperventilation
- Crush syndrome
- Prolonged resuscitation in cardiac arrest
- Toxicity from medications or clinical causes (per page)

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: hypersensitivity
- Unable to ventilate (per page)
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **Acidosis / cardiac arrest: 1 mEq/kg IV/IO**

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

Repeat: **Toxicity (regular really wide complex tachycardia): 2 amps (100 mEq) (per page)**

WATCH FOR

- Alkalosis

PEARLS

- Toxicity causes listed: Type Ia/Ic antiarrhythmics, local anesthetics, propranolol, carbamazepine, quinine, tricyclics
- Toxicity signs listed: complex wider than 200 ms, sedation/coma, seizures, hypotension, wide-complex tachycardia

Take Home Message:

Sodium bicarbonate buffers severe acidosis and tricyclic toxicity — 1 mEq/kg, and 2 amps for wide-complex toxicity.