Mag Sulfate

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Central nervous system depressant; anticonvulsant; antiarrhythmic

How it works: Reduces striated muscle contractions and blocks peripheral neuromuscular transmission

Reduces acetylcholine release at the myoneural junction

USE IT FOR

- Eclampsia
- Hypomagnesemia
- Torsades de pointes
- Asthma refractory to albuterol
- Refractory VFib / pulseless VTach

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: heart block
- Recent MI (per page)
- Renal insufficiency / renal failure
- Precautions: patients taking digitalis
- Watch for hypotension
- Have calcium chloride available in respiratory depression (per page)
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **Eclampsia: 4 g IM, split into 2 doses; Torsades/Asthma: 2 g**

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

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

WATCH FOR

- Respiratory depression
- Drowsiness
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea

PEARLS

- Onset 1-2 min; peak 5 min; half-life 30 min (per page)

Take Home Message:

Magnesium sulfate covers eclampsia, torsades, and refractory asthma — 4 g IM split for eclampsia, 2 g for torsades/asthma.