



## Neurology/NeuroSurgery

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### **Phenoxybenzamine Hydrochloride**

Phenoxybenzamine hydrochloride is an alpha-adrenergic blocking agent. Alpha-adrenergic agents are used as a chemical sympathectomy resulting the relaxation of smooth muscle lining blood vessels (arteries / arterioles) and the urethra where specialized receptors, alpha-receptors, are present to bind Phenoxybenzamine. Phenoxybenzamine is used in small animals primarily for its effects in reducing internal urethral sphincter tone in dogs and cats when urethral sphincter hypertonus is present. It is also used as an antihypertensive agent in conditions with excessive stress hormone (epinephrine, norepinephrine) production.

Adverse effects associated with Phenoxybenzamine include hypotension, small pupils, increased intraocular pressure, increased heart rate, and nasal congestion. Rarely seen signs of weakness, dizziness, and nausea/vomiting are reported. Over dosage signs include postural hypotension (dizziness, syncope), elevated heart rate, vomiting and lethargy or shock. Should your pet experience continued problems, weakness, appear dizzy or collapse after standing or experience persistent vomiting or GI upset, please discontinue the medication and call immediately.