## CALCIUM GLUCONATE

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| **THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS** | Essential for the transmission of nerve impulses that initiate the contraction of cardiac muscle. Calcium gluconate is a specific antagonist of the adverse effects of potassium. Onset of action is 1-3 minutes, duration is 30-50 minutes. |
| **INDICATIONS** | 1. Renal patient with suspected hyperkalemia associated with **bradycardia** and hypotension or an unstable cardiac arrhythmia<br>2. Calcium channel blocker overdose associated with bradycardia and hypotension or unstable arrhythmia<br>3. **Crush injury syndrome** prior to release of compression or if, at any time, the patient has hypotension and bradycardia associated with EKG evidence of hyperkalemia |
| **CONTRAINDICATIONS** | Calcium gluconate should not be used during resuscitation efforts unless hyperkalemia, hypocalcemia, or calcium channel blocker toxicity is suspected. |
| **PRECAUTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS** | Use with extreme caution in patients known to take digoxin, as life threatening arrhythmias can result.<br>Use a large secure vein; SQ infiltration can cause tissue necrosis. Flush the line before and after use, as calcium gluconate is incompatible with Sodium Bicarbonate. |
| **ADULT DOSAGE/ROUTE** | 20 ml of 10% calcium gluconate IV/IO administered slowly over 1-2 minutes. |