

Respiratory Tract Secretions in the last days of life

PRESENT

ABSENT

Hyoscine
HYDRObromide¹
0.4mg sc stat and start
a continuous infusion
via a syringe pump with
1.2mg over 24hrs
or
Hyoscine
BUTYLbromide² 20mg
sc stat and start a
continuous infusion via
a syringe pump with
60mg over 24hrs

Continue to give
prn doses if
needed

If symptoms persist
after 24hrs increase
hyoscine
HYDRObromide¹ to
2.4mg over 24hrs
or
hyoscine
BUTYLbromide² to
120mg over 24hrs in
syringe pump

1. **Hyoscine HYDRObromide is useful in last days of life when sedation required but can cause paradoxical agitation; give prn injections with levomepromazine (6.25mg sc) or midazolam (2.5mg sc) if patient not already on a sedative. Caution: avoid if suspected eGFR <30.**
2. **Hyoscine BUTYLbromide (Buscopan) useful for respiratory secretions when sedation not desired. Suitable for use if suspected eGFR <30.**
3. **The above treatment is effective in approximately 50% of patients.**
4. **Explain to the patient and their family that noisy breathing is due to the presence of secretions in the airways and throat, which the patient is no longer able to clear effectively through coughing or swallowing.**
5. **Repositioning the patient can sometimes alleviate the symptom.**
6. **If symptoms persist seek medical/ specialist advice.**

Prescribe
Hyoscine
HYDRObromide¹
¹ 0.4mg sc prn
or
Hyoscine
BUTYLbromide²
20mg sc prn

If two or more doses
needed, start a
continuous infusion via
syringe pump over 24 hrs
as opposite