

Ketamine Adverse Effects

Factors such as advanced age, poor health status, frailty and progressive cancer must be taken into consideration when considering the likelihood and impact of adverse reactions.

Common

- **Dermatologic:** irritation at injection site (due to low pH) may require re-siting cannula daily or more often
- **Gastrointestinal:** nausea, vomiting, hypersalivation
- **Psychiatric:** hallucinations, delirium (often hypoactive), dysphoria, feeling 'spacey' or disconnected, vivid unpleasant dreams

Uncommon (although may be problematic in frail patients)

- **Cardiovascular:** hypertension, elevation of heart rate
- **Musculoskeletal:** increased muscle tone (may resemble tonic-clonic seizures)
- **Ophthalmological:** lacrimation

Serious

- **Cardiovascular:** arrhythmias
- **Neurological:** sedation, amnesia, intracranial pressure elevation, diplopia, nystagmus
- **Ophthalmological:** intraocular pressure elevation
- **Psychiatric:** hallucinations, delirium (often hypoactive), dysphoria, feeling 'spacey' or disconnected, vivid unpleasant dreams

Respiratory: respiratory depression (with rapid infusion but may also be due to pre-existing high levels of opioid)

See SVHM ketamine Policy for more information

<http://intranet/Policies/Medication%20Administration%20Policies/KetamineForPainManagement.pdf>

January 2020

