

## Which neuromuscular blocker is better in emergency kit for urgent intubation, vecuronium vs rocuronium?

Yong Han Kim, Se Hun Kim, Hyo Joong Kim

Department of Anesthesiology and pain medicine, Haeundae Paik Hospital, Inje University, Busan, Republic of Korea

Endotracheal intubation is often performed on urgency except general anesthesia of elective surgery. Much experienced in emergency room, operating room and intensive care unit, however, it is unfamiliar in ward, outpatient and laboratory. Airway emergency kit was equipped with laryngoscope, endotracheal tube, and some medicine including neuromuscular blocker for unexpected situation. Better prepared various kinds of muscle relaxants, but one or two kinds are real, usually vecuronium or rocuronium. Succinylcholine is not popular for undesired side effect recently. If only one kind of neuromuscular blocker has to be prepared, vecuronium or rocuronium, which relaxant is superior?

We recommend rocuronium by three reasons as followings;

First, rocuronium has rapid onset of muscle relaxation compared to vecuronium. High doses of rocuronium can be used as rapid sequence induction like succinylcholine.<sup>1</sup>

Second, rocuronium has definite reversal agent, sugammadex. When neuromuscular blockade is no longer needed, sugammadex is easily able to restore muscle relaxation completely.<sup>2</sup>

Third, rocuronium is a liquefied product. Vecuronium

is powder, therefore, to be mixed with distilled water before use.<sup>3</sup> This is time-consuming in emergency situation.

Rocuronium is appropriate to emergency kit for urgent endotracheal intubation.

### Author contributions:

Conception and design: Yong Han Kim

Collection and assembly of data: Se Hun Kim

Critical revision of the article for important intellectual content: Hyo Joong Kim

Final approval and guarantor of the article: Yong Han Kim

**Corresponding author email:** Yong Han Kim:

adonis94@naver.com

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