

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: Medication

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MEDICATION Lorazepam (Ativan)

REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Antianxiety

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

enhances action of inhibitory neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in CNS, affecting memory, motor, sensory, cognitive fx

Therapeutic Use

Antianxiety, Sedative-hypnotic, Antiemetic, Skeletal Muscle Relaxant, Amnesiac, Antitremor: produce anxiolytic, anticonvulsant, sedative, muscle relaxant, antiemetic effects

Complications

Side Effects: drowsiness, dizziness, weakness, HA, hypotension, n/v, confusion, inj site rxn

Adverse Effects: abrupt/rapid withdrawal may result in restlessness, irritability, insomnia, hand tremor, abd cramping, muscle cramps, diaphoresis, vomiting, seizures. OD results in drowsiness, confusion, diminished reflexes, coma

Medication Administration

PO: 2mg/ml, 0.5mg, 1mg, 2mg

- give with food
- tablets may be crushed
- dilute oral solution in water, juice, soda, semisolid food

adult dosage (anxiety): 0.5-2mg q4-6h as needed up to 10mg/day

*ANTIDOTE = Flumazenil

Contraindications/Precautions

Contraindications: hypersensitivity to lorazepam/other benzodiazepines, acute narrow glaucoma, severe respiratory depression (except during mechanical ventilation)

Cautions: neonates, renal/hepatic impairment, compromised pulm fx, depression, concomitant use of CNS depressants, suicidal ideations/behavior, hx drug abuse/misuse, drug-seeking behavior, dependency

Nursing Interventions

- pt must remain recumbent following admin to reduce hypotensive effect
- assess motor responses
- assess for drug seeking behavior, risk of abuse/misuse
- monitor BP, RR, HR
- screen for suicidal ideation, new onset or worsening anxiety, depression, mood disorder

Interactions

Drug: valproic acid - may inc conc/effect, alcohol/other CNS depressants - may inc CNS depression
Herbal: w sedative properties (chamomile, kava kava, valerian) - may inc CNS depression

*Therapeutic serum level = 50-240ng/mL

*Toxic serum level = unknown

Client Education

- drowsiness usu subsides during continued tx
- avoid tasks that require alertness, motor skills until response to drug is est
- smoking reduces effectiveness
- do not abruptly discontinue
- do not use etoh/CNS depressants
- contraception recommended
- seek immediate attention if thoughts of suicide, new/worsening anxiety, depression, changes in mood/behavior

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

correction of anxiety, nausea, muscle relaxation, reduction of tremors without sever adverse side effects