

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

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MEDICATION Warfarin/Coumadin REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Anticoagulants

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Interferes with hepatic synthesis of vitamin-K dependent clotting factors

Therapeutic Use

Prevention of clotting events

Complications

Dermal necrosis, cramps, nausea, calciphylaxis (buildup of calcium in vessels), bleeding, fever

Medication Administration

PO: 2-5 mg/day for 2-4 days, then adjust daily dose by results of INR

Contraindications/Precautions

Contraindications: uncontrolled bleeding, open wounds, active ulcer disease, recent brain, eye, or spinal cord injury or surgery, severe hepatic impairment, uncontrolled hypertension, pregnancy
Precautions: hx of ulcer, liver disease or AKI, hx of poor compliance

Nursing Interventions

- Assess for signs of bleeding and hemorrhage
- Assess for evidence of additional or increased thrombosis
- Monitor PT, INR and other clotting factors during use

Interactions

Thrombolytics, NSAIDs, aspirin, acetaminophen, alcohol, barbiturates, rifampin, hormonal birth control containing estrogen, Garlic, ginger, licorice
Foods high in vitamin K

Client Education

- Instruct to take medication as directed
- Review foods high in Vitamin K
- Report symptoms of unusual bleeding or bruising
- Instruct not to drink alcohol or take another OTC meds
- Avoid IM injections or activities leading to injury

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Prevention of clotting events