

Generic Name: amiodarone (am-ee-oh-da-rone)

Trade Name(s): Nexterone, Pacerone

Drug Classification: antiarrhythmics

Use(s): life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias unresponsive to less toxic agents

Actions: prolongs action potential and refractory period, inhibits adrenergic stimulation, slows the sinus rate, increase PR and QT intervals and decreases peripheral vascular resistance (vasodilation)

Contraindications: patients with cardiogenic shock, severe sinus node dysfunction, 2nd and 3rd degree block, bradycardia, hypersensitivity to amiodarone or iodine

Cautions: history of HF, thyroid disorders, corneal refractive laser surgery, severe pulmonary or liver disease

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: dizziness, fatigue, malaise, corneal deposits, ARDS, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary toxicity, HF, worsening if arrhythmias, QT interval prolongations, bradycardia, hypotension, anorexia, constipation, n/v, hypothyroidism, ataxia

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: Monitor ECG, breath sounds, BP

Lab Test(s): Liver & thyroid functions

Nursing Interventions: 2nd check before administration, administer with meals

Patient/Family Teaching: Monitor pulser daily, avoid taking with grapefruit juice, bluish discoloration of face, neck and arms is a possible side effect, s/s of epididymitis

Generic Name: epinephrine (ep-i-nef-rin)

Trade Name(s): Adrenalin, Adrenaclick, EpiPen, Auvi-Q, Primatene Mist

Drug Classification: antiasthmatics, bronchodilators, vasopressors

Use(s): severe allergic reactions, hypotension associated with septic shock, upper airway obstruction and croup, temporary relief of mild symptoms of intermittent asthma

Actions: bronchodilation, maintenance of heart rate & BP, localization/prolongation of local/spinal anesthetic

Contraindications: hypersensitivity to adrenergic amines, some products may contain bisulfites and should be avoided in patient with known hypersensitivity or intolerance

Cautions: cardiac disease, hypertension, hyperthyroidism, parkinson's disease, diabetes, cerebral arteriosclerosis

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: nervousness, restlessness, tremor, headache, angina, arrhythmias, hypertension, tachycardia, n/v, renal impairment

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: lung sounds, pulse, BP

Lab Test(s): Potassium, lactic acid

Nursing Interventions: 2nd check

Patient/Family Teaching: Contact health care professional immediately if symptoms not relieved by administration of medication, maintain adequate fluid intake, how to use

Generic Name: dobutamine (doe-byoo-ta-meen)

Trade Name(s):

Drug Classification: adrenergics

Use(s): short term management of HF caused by depressed contractility from organic heart disease or surgical procedures

Actions: increased cardiac output without significantly increased heart rate

Contraindications: hypersensitivity to dobutamine or bisulfites, idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis

Cautions: history of hypertension, MI, atrial fibrillation, history of ventricular atropic activity, hypovolemia

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: hypertension, increased heart rate, premature ventricular contractions, angina pectoris, n/v, SOB

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: BP, heart rate, ECG

Lab Test(s): Electrolytes, BUN, creatinine, and PT

Nursing Interventions: 2nd check, administer in large vein

Patient/Family Teaching: inform nurse immediately of pain or discomfort, chest pain, numbness, tingling or burning of extremities

Generic Name: baclofen (bak-loe-fen)

Trade Name(s): Gablofen, Lioresal, Ozobox

Drug Classification: antispasticity agents, skeletal muscle relaxants

Use(s): management of pain in trigeminal neuralgia

Actions: decreased muscle spasticity; bowel and bladder function may also be improved

Contraindications: hypersensitivity

Cautions: patients with whom spasticity maintains posture and balance, patients with epilepsy, renal impairment

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: seizures, nausea, constipation, frequency, ataxia

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving:

Lab Test(s): Serum glucose, alkaline phosphatase, AST, ALT

Nursing Interventions: administer with food

Patient/Family Teaching: may cause dizziness and drowsiness, change positions slowly, avoid concurrent use with alcohol, report s/s of hypersensitivity

Generic Name: dopamine (dope-a-meen)

Trade Name(s): Intropin

Drug Classification: adrenergics

Use(s): improve BP, cardiac output, urine output in treatment of shock unresponsive to fluid replacement, increase renal perfusion

Actions: increased cardiac output, increased BP and improved renal blood flow

Contraindications: tachyarrhythmias, pheochromocytoma, hypersensitivity to bisulfites

Cautions: hypovolemia, MI, occlusive vascular diseases

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: headache, arrhythmias, hypotension, dyspnea, n/v, piloerection

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: BP, heart rate, pulse pressure ECG

Lab Test(s):

Nursing Interventions: 2nd check, large vein

Patient/Family Teaching: frequent monitoring, inform nurse if chest pain, dyspnea, numbness tingling or burning of extremities occurs, pain or discomfort at site of administration

Generic Name: lidocaine (lye-doe-kane)

Trade Name(s): Xylocaine

Drug Classification: anesthetics, antiarrhythmics

Use(s): ventricular arrhythmias, pain, anesthetic

Actions: control of ventricular arrhythmias, local anesthesia

Contraindications: third degree heart block, wolff Parkinson white syndrome

Cautions: respiratory depression, liver disease, HF, shock, heart block

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: seizures, confusion, drowsiness, cardiac arrest, blurred vision, slurred speech, stinging, n/v, bronchospasm

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: ECG, BP, Respiratory status

Lab Test(s): Serum electrolytes

Nursing Interventions: Do not exceed recommended doses, gag reflex before allowing patient to eat or drink

Patient/Family Teaching: Assistance when ambulating, as directed

Generic Name: atropine (at-ro-peen)

Trade Name(s): Atro-Pen

Drug Classification: anticholinergics

Use(s): decrease oral and respiratory secretions, sinus bradycardia and heart block, reversal of adverse muscarinic effects of anticholinesterase agent, treatment of exercise-induced bronchospasm

Actions: increased heart rates, decreased GI and respiratory secretions, reversal of muscarinic effects, may have spasmolytic action on the biliary and genitourinary tracts

Contraindications: angle-closure glaucoma, hypersensitivity, acute hemorrhage, tachycardia secondary to cardiac insufficiency or thyrotoxicosis, obstructive disease of the GI tract

Cautions: intra-abdominal infections, prostatic hyperplasia, chronic renal, hepatic pulmonary or cardiac disease

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: drowsiness, tachycardia, blurred vision, confusion, dry mouth, urinary hesitancy, tachypnea, decreased sweating

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: Vital signs, ECG

Lab Test(s):

Nursing Interventions: Assess for abdominal distention, monitor intake and output

Patient/Family Teaching: Oral rinses, sugarless gum or candy may relieve dry mouth, strenuous activity in hot environment may cause heart stroke

Generic Name: mannitol (man-i-tol)

Trade Name(s): Osmitol, Resectisol

Drug Classification: osmotic diuretics

Use(s): reduction of ICP and treatment of cerebral edema, reduction of elevated intraocular pressure

Actions: reduction of intraocular or intracranial pressure, decreased hemolysis when used as an irrigant after transurethral prostatic resection

Contraindications: Anuria, severe hypovolemia, active intracranial bleeding, severe pulmonary edema

Cautions: renal impairment, compromised blood brain barrier

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: COMA, confusion, lethargy, blurred vision, rhinitis, dehydration, hyperkalemia, nausea, thirst, vomiting, AKI, renal failure

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: VS, urine output, CVP and PAP

Lab Test(s): Renal function, serum electrolytes

Nursing Interventions: Monitor site for infiltration, do not administer with blood

Patient/Family Teaching: explain purpose of therapy to patient

Generic Name: phenytoin (fen-i-toyn)

Trade Name(s): Dilantin, Phenytek

Drug Classification: antiarrhythmics, anticonvulsants

Use(s): treatment/prevention of tonic-clonic seizures and complex partial seizures

Actions: diminished seizure activity, termination of ventricular arrhythmias

Contraindications: hypersensitivity, hepatotoxicity, alcohol intolerance, sinus bradycardia, SA block, 2nd or 3rd degree block

Cautions: hepatic or renal disease, severe cardiac or respiratory disease, cardiac disease

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: suicidal thoughts, cardiac arrest, acute hepatic failure, angioedema, ataxia, bradycardia, gingival hyperplasia, nausea, leukopenia, osteoporosis

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: Behavior, fever, rash, mental status, s/s of DRESS

Lab Test(s): CBC, serum calcium, albumin, and hepatic function tests

Nursing Interventions: seizure precautions, administer with or after meals

Patient/Family Teaching: good dental hygiene, avoid alcohol, drowsiness or dizziness, take as directed

Generic Name: methylprednisolone (meth-ill-pred-niss-oh-lone)

Trade Name(s): DEPO-Medrol, Medrol, SOLU-Medrol

Drug Classification: corticosteroids

Use(s): inflammatory, allergic, hematologic, neoplastic, autoimmune disorders, immunosuppressant, replacement therapy in adrenal insufficiency, may be suitable for alternate-day dosing in the management of chronic illness

Actions: suppression of inflammation and modification of the normal immune response, replacement therapy in adrenal insufficiency

Contraindications: active untreated infections, epidural use, known alcohol, bisulfite or tartrazine hypersensitivity or intolerance, administration of live virus vaccines

Cautions: chronic treatment, stress, potential infections may mask signs

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: depression, euphoria, anorexia, peptic ulceration, nausea, acne, decreased wound healing, ecchymoses, fragility, hirsutism, petechiae, adrenal suppression, muscle wasting, osteoporosis

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: Daily weights

Lab Test(s): Serum electrolytes and glucose

Nursing Interventions: administer in the morning, administer with meals

Patient/Family Teaching: Report unusual swelling, weight gain, tiredness, bone pain, bruising, nonhealing sores, visual disturbances, behavior changes, avoid vaccinations without first counseling health care professional

Generic Name: alteplase (al-te-plase)

Trade Name(s): Activase, Cathflo Activase

Drug Classification: thrombolytics

Use(s): Acute MI, Acute ischemic stroke, PE, occluded central venous access devices

Actions: directly converts plasminogen to plasmin, which then degrades clot-bound fibrin

Contraindications: active internal bleeding, history of CVA, recent intracranial or intraspinal injury or trauma, bleeding diathesis, uncontrolled hypertension

Cautions: recent trauma, CV disease, hepatic impairment

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: intracranial hemorrhage, epistaxis, bronchospasm, recurrent ischemia, gi bleeding, gu tract bleeding, bleeding, anaphylaxis

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: VS, bleeding, hypersensitivity reaction, neurologic status, ECG

Lab Test(s): Hct, Hgb, platelet count, PT, PTT

Nursing Interventions: 2nd check, two IV lines started

Patient/Family Teaching: explain purpose of medication and the need for close monitoring to patient and family, BR

Generic Name: Propofol (proe-poe-fo)

Trade Name(s): Diprivan

Drug Classification: General anesthetics

Use(s): Induction of general anesthesia, maintenance of balanced anesthesia when used with other agents in children, initiation and maintenance of monitored anesthesia care, sedation of intubated, mechanically ventilated patients in ICUs

Actions: Induction and maintenance of anesthesia

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to propofol, soybean oil, egg lecithin, or glycerol, OB: crosses placenta - may cause neonatal depression, may affect child's brain development when used during 3rd trimester, enters breastmilk - effects on newborn unknown

Cautions: Cardiovascular disease, lipid disorders, increased intracranial pressure, cerebrovascular disorders, hypovolemic patients, lower induction and maintenance dose decrease recommended

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects: Dizziness, headache, bradycardia, hypotension, apnea, cough, abdominal cramping, N/V, flushing, burning, pain, stinging, discoloration of urine (green), propofol infusion syndrome

Nursing Implications

Assessment Prior to Giving: Assess respiratory status, pulse, BP, assess level of sedation and LOC throughout and following administration, monitor for propofol infusion syndrome

Lab Test(s):

Nursing Interventions: Do not confuse Diprovan with Diflucan, for ICU sedation avoid abrupt discontinuation – may cause rapid awakening with anxiety, agitation, and resistance to mechanical ventilation, maintain patient airway and adequate ventilation

Patient/Family Teaching: Inform patient that this medication will decrease mental recall of the procedure, may cause drowsiness or dizziness, advise patient to request assistance prior to ambulation and transfer and to avoid driving or other activities requiring alertness for 24hr following administration, advise patient to avoid alcohol or other CNS depressants without the advice of health care professional for 24hr following administration