ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

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MEDICATION Digoxin REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER

CATEGORY CLASS Cardiac Glycoside

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Increases the force of Myocardial contraction
Prolongs refractory period of AV Node
Decreases conduction through the SA & AV Nodes

Therapeutic Use

HF, A Fib/Flutter (slows ventricular rate), Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
Inceases CO and slows HF

Complications

Fatigue, HA, weakness, Arrythmias, bradycardia, ECG changes, AV block, SA block, blurred vision, yellow/green vision, anorexia, N/V/D, thrombocytopenia, electrolyte imbalances

Contraindications/Precautions

Uncontrolled Ventricular Dysrhythmias, AV block or severe heart disease, Digoxin toxicity
Hypokalemia, hypercalcemia, concurrent use of diuretics, impaired kidney function, infants, child, older adults

Interactions

Erythromycin increases effects
Other antidysrhythmics increase dig levels, decrease dig dose for concurrent administration
diuretics increase risk for dig toxicity by decreasing potassium levels
herbal ginseng increases risk of toxicity

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Decrease in severit of HF, increase in CO, decrease in ventricular response in atrial tachyarrythmias, termination of paroxysmal atrial tachycardia

Medication Administration

Oral, capsules, IV, IM
IV form may be administered directly over at least 5 mins, monitor carefully for infiltration.
IV, IM: 0.5-1 mg
PO: 0.75- 1.5 mg
Several divided doses over 12-24 hours

Nursing Interventions

Monitor & report GI symptoms, CNS effects
Take apical pulse for 1 full minute
Monitor dig levels, potassium levels. Administer potassium for low levels
Monitor cardiac rhythm
Immune FAB (Digibind) is

Client Education

Report nausea, loss of appetitie, vomiting, HA, visual problems, palpitations, weak muscles (hypokalemia)
Monitor pulse rate
Take at same time each day & don't skip or double doses
High risk of toxicity