

Furosemide (Loop Diuretic)

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MEDICATION: Furosemide (Lasix)

CATEGORY CLASS: Loop Diuretic

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

These act on the ascending loop of Henle, in the renal tubules blocking reabsorption of sodium and chloride. This promotes excretion of sodium and chloride which carry water with them, urine put is increased and potassium is excreted

Therapeutic Use

Powerful diuretics that treat pulmonary edema in heart failure, edema caused by renal, hepatic or cardiac failure not affected by other diuretics, can also treat HTN not affected by other diuretics

Complications

Could cause electrolyte imbalances such as hyponatremia, hypochloremia, and severe fluid loss causing dehydration, and hypokalemia. Hypotension from the loss of water, and hyperglycemia especially in diabetic patients

Medication Administration

Available in oral, IM, or IV use. Given orally with food to prevent GI upset, if ordered twice daily take second dose early afternoon to prevent loss of sleep/nocturia. Protect from light and in the refrigerator, IV forms should be undiluted and administered slowly

Contraindications/Precautions

Contraindicated: to pts allergic, shouldn't be given to pts who are in hepatic coma, with anuria, dehydration, electrolyte imbalance

Precautions: older adults have a higher risk for hypotension and electrolyte disturbances, use caution in pts with renal/hepatic impairments or diabetes. Use caution in pregnant women or those breast feeding

Nursing Interventions

Monitor serum electrolyte levels and notify provider of any abnormal levels. Watch for signs of electrolyte imbalances such as confusion, nausea, muscle twitching/weakness, irregular pulse. Monitor blood pressure and be sure to change positions slowly.

Interactions

Clients who are on digoxin are at a greater risk for digoxin toxicity, giving NSAIDs may decrease the diuretic effect, lithium toxicity could occur if taking concurrently with lithium for a mood disorder

Client Education

Reinforce to report any signs of electrolyte imbalances. Make sure clients are educated on the importance of monitoring blood pressure. Instruct pts to report any new onset of hearing loss, ringing in the ears or vertigo to the provider

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

I would want to evaluate for a decrease in edema, and decrease in blood pressure, also look for an increase in urinary output, and decrease in abdominal girth and weight