ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

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MEDICATION Digoxin REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER

CATEGORY CLASS Cardiac Glycoside

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Inhibits sodium, potassium ATP, which causes calcium to collect in the heart. This then in return increases cardiac contractability. Increased cardiac contractability increases cardiac output. This will increase blood flow to the kidneys, leading to decreased vasoconstriction.

Therapeutic Use

Treats a-fib, a-flutter, and paroxysmal atrial tachycardia.

Complications

Cardiac dysrhythmias, N/V, anorexia, visual disturbances, fatigue

Medication Administration

Availible as oral tablets, capsules or elixir, IV

-Give orally with or without food, tablets can be crushed or mixed with food
-Monitor IV site for any infiltration, give over 5 minutes.

Contraindications/Precautions

AV block, severe heart disease, uncontrolled ventricular dysrhythmias, digoxin toxicity, hypercalcemia.

Nursing Interventions

-Monitor and report GI symptoms
-Monitor and report CNS symptoms
-Monitor cardiac rhythms
-Assess for toxicity
-Monitor potassium levels

Interactions

-Other antidysrhythmics increase digoxin levels.
-Diuretics increase digoxin toxicity risk.
-Gingseng increase digoxin toxicity risk.

Client Education

-Report nausea, headaches
-Learn to monitor pulse
-Take medication the same time each day
-Report muscle weakness

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Heart rate and workload lowers, cardiac contractility goes up, and vasoconstriction decreases. We would expect to see a decrease in HR and BP in our patient, and reduced HF symptoms.