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Pharmacology

Name	Captopril
Classification	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
Indication	Hypertension, left ventricular dysfunction, diabetic nephropathy
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Dizziness, lightheadedness, loss of taste, dry cough
Nursing Considerations	(This drug causes vasodilation so that the blood can flow smoothly and the heart can pump efficiently by stopping enzymes that convert Angiotensin I into Angiotensin II. This can be used for patients who have high heart rates but perhaps need to do ambulatory exercises in the hospital during their recovery.) Monitor BUN, potassium levels, and urine protein. Potassium supplements and potassium sparing diuretics should be given cautiously because these inhibitors can create potassium retention and hyperkalemia. Patient should avoid potassium sources and should be given this drug 1 hour before meals

Name	Losartan
Classification	Angiotensin II receptor antagonist
Indication	Hypertension, renal artery stenosis
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Blurred vision, hard breathing, dizziness, irregular or fast heartbeat, nausea, vomiting, heavy legs, stomach pain, tingling hands or feet, numbness
Nursing Considerations	(This drug blocks the protein signals that cause vasoconstriction by the Angiotensin II. This is used when there are high levels of blood, renal artery stenosis, and low blood pressure. When a patient has low blood pressure or renal problems, this medicine can be used) It can cause hypotension, tachycardia, angioedema, and hyperkalemia. Nurse needs to assess blood pressure, heart rate, fluid levels, monitor renal organs and liver and weights. Instruct patient how to take blood pressure

Name	Diltiazem
Classification	Calcium channel blockers
Indication	High blood pressure and chest pain
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Swollen hands, ankles or feet, headaches, dizziness, fatigue, flush skin, itching, burning sensation, stomach pain, indigestion, constipation
Nursing Considerations	Caution patients to change position slowly to minimize orthostatic hypotension. Patient should not be driving or other alert activities until the reaction to medicine is known

Name	Nitroprusside
Classification	Vasodilator
Indication	Acute Heart failure, hypotension to reduce blood loss
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Chest pain, chest discomfort, irregular heart beat, irregular pulse, dizziness, faint, slow heartbeat, difficult breathing, fatigue
Nursing Considerations	Monitor cardiac palpitation and difficulty breathing. Watch out for cardiac/pulmonary systems, acidosis headache, lethargy, rapid breathing, confusion

Name	Atenolol
Classification	Beta blocker that blocks epinephrine in heart and blood vessels receptors
Indication	Can be used with or without other drugs to treat hypertension in case of heart attack, strokes, or kidney issues. Used to treat angina (chest pain)
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Blurred vision, cold hands and feet, hard breathing, dizziness, shortness of breath, tight chest, wheezing
Nursing Considerations	Before administration, assess the patient's apical pulse and blood pressure. If they are in normal range administer the drug. Do not administer because patient’s blood levels can drop

Name	Metoprolol
Classification	Beta Blocker
Indication	Angina (heart pain), heart failure, myocardial infarction, atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, hypertension
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Headaches, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, stomach pain, bloating, vomiting, depression.
Nursing Considerations	Needs to be taken with food and do not crush the tablet. Cut the tablets. Blood pressure and heart rate should be checked for response to metoprolol.

Name	furosemide
Classification	Loop Diuretics (water pills)
Indication	Heart failure, chronic lung disease, hypertension
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Thirst, dry mouth, fatigue, hypotension, oliguria
Nursing Considerations	Monitor daily weight, locations of edema, lung sounds, turgor, and mucous membrane. Look out for the side effects. Do not take if patient has kidney disease. People with diabetes and low mineral levels, and hearing loss should not take this drug.

Name	Norepinephrine
Classification	Vasoconstriction
Indication	Blood pressure control in certain acute hypotensive states. Drug reactions, blood transfusions, myocardial infarction. Acute stress
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Pain burning, irritation, discoloration, or skin changes, numbness, fatigue, chills, irregular heart rate, blue lips or fingernails, no urination, difficult breathing
Nursing Considerations	Check up on patients for headache, chest pain, or other signs of toxicity. Do not mix other medications in IV.

Name	Simvastatin
Classification	HMG- CoA reductase inhibitors (decrease cholesterol)
Indication	Low total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein and other cholesterol
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Severe muscle damage, constipation, stomach pain, nausea, headache, memory loss, confusion, itchy or red skin
Nursing Considerations	Assess cholesterol levels after 6 weeks. Perform liver function tests. Before administering, look for joint pain, muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness.

Name	Amlodipine
Classification	Calcium channel blockers (heart does not have to pump so hard by relaxing blood vessels)
Indication	Hypertension (lower the blood pressure, Angina, Coronary Artery Disease, Renal impairment
Side Effects/ Adverse Reactions	Swelling of hands, feet, ankles, or lower legs, headaches, stomach pain, upset stomach, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue
Nursing Considerations	Check patient’s medical record for any possible allergic reaction. Look for any rhythm disturbances and arrhythmias.