

Cetirizine (Allacem, Benadryl, Zirtec)

Class: H1 Antihistamines → H1 Histamine Antagonist

Indication: Rhinitis, allergy sx, Chronic idiopathic urticaria

Side Effects: bronchospasm, seizures, syncope, hemolytic anemia, severe hypotension

Common - drowsiness, fatigue, abdominal pain, dry mucous membranes

Nursing considerations: • Patient should be instructed to not operate heavy machinery due to possible sedation

• Humidifier → help with dry mucous membranes

Montelukast (Singulair)

Class: Bronchodilator  
Leukotriene receptor antagonist

Indications: chronic asthma, seasonal allergic rhinitis, bronchospasm prophylaxis

Side Effects: \*serious neuropsychiatric events

↳ agitation, aggression, depression, anxiousness, somnambulism  
suicidal ideation, memory impairment, hostility

- Pancreatitis
- Churg-Strouss syndrome, Steven-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis

Nursing Considerations:

- Assess respiratory status
- Assess behavioral status / changes
- LFTs

fluticasone propionate (Flovent, Flonase)

Class: corticosteroids inhalation

Indication: Prophylactic asthma tx, allergic rhinitis

Side effects: eosinophilic conditions, angioedema, anaphylaxis, adrenal insufficiency (high dose)  
bronchospasm

Nursing Considerations:

- Assess resp. status
- Adrenal insufficiency: <sup>Sx:</sup> nausea, weakness, fatigue, hypertension, hypoglycemia
- Pregnancy/Breastfeeding: only if benefits outweigh fetal risk!
- Cushingoid Sx: no appetite, nausea, weakness, fatigue, decreased BP.

anticholinergic  
Ipratropium (Atrovent)

Class: Anticholinergic, bronchodilator

Indication: Bronchospasm, COPD, Rhinorrhea (nasal spray)

SE: Palpitations, dry mouth, blurred vision, bronchospasms  
\* Preg / breastfeeding precaution.

Nursing Considerations : Assess:

Palpitations

Atropine sensitivity

↳ soybean or peanut products

Education:

Do not exceed 12 doses / 24 hrs.

Instruct pt how to use nasal spray

## diphenhydramine (Benadryl)

Class: Antihistamine

↳ antagonizes effects of histamine

indication: Allergy, anaphylaxis, sedation, motion sickness, antitussive

SE: Anaphylaxis, hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia

Nursing Considerations:

- ↑ fluids
- humidifier
- Assess allergies, sleep patterns, cough & lung sounds
- Pt should avoid other OTC cough & cold remedies

guaifenesin ( Mucinex, Bidex 400, Organidin NR)

Class: Expectorant

indication: Productive / non-productive cough

SE: Drowsiness, headache, dizziness  
nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Nursing Considerations: Assess lung sounds  
Maintain adequate fluid intake

## Epinephrine (Adrenalin, EpiPen)

Therapeutic Class: Antiasthmatic, bronchodilator, vasopressor

Pharm class: Adrenergic agonist

Indication: Asthma & COPD exacerbations, allergic rxns,  
cardiac arrest, anesthesia adjunct

SE: Angina, tachycardia, hypertension, restlessness

### Nursing Considerations

- Assess lung sounds, pulse, BP
- Monitor chest pain
- Pt should not use stimulants (caffeine, guarana)

Albuterol (AiroMir, ProAir)

class: Bronchodilator

Indication: Prevention of exercise-induced asthma, acute bronchospasm, bronchitis, emphysema

SE: bronchospasms, anaphylaxis, angioedema, cardiac arrest, hypokalemia, hyperglycemia.

Nursing Consideration :

- Teach pt or parent to shake inhaler
- rinse mouth to avoid oral thrush
- Monitor heart
- monitor K<sup>+</sup>

terbutaline (Brethaire, Brethine)

Class: Selective- $\beta_2$ -agonist; bronchodilator

Indication: bronchospasm

SE: cardiac arrest, QT prolongation, paradoxical bronchospasm, dyspnea

Nursing Considerations: Assess resp. fxn

Paradoxical bronchospasm sx: dyspnea, wheezing,

↳ \* keep emergency equipment @ bedside.

## Rifampin (Rimactane)

Class: Antimycobacterials; Antitubercular

Indication: TB

SE: Hepatitis, hepatotoxicity, thrombocytopenia, hemolytic anemia

Nursing Considerations : Assess lung sounds & sputum characteristics  
Evaluate renal & liver function tests  
Instruct pt not to skip or double dose  
pt must complete entire dose (6-12 mo therapy)