

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

STUDENT NAME _____

MEDICATION Naloxone

REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS Opioid Antagonist

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Competitively blocks the effects of opioids, including CNS and respiratory depression, without producing any agonist (opioid-like) effects.

Therapeutic Use

Reversal of CNS depression and respiratory depression because of suspected opioid overdose. Unlabeled Use: Opioid-induced pruritus (low dose IV infusion). Management of refractory circulatory shock.

Complications

CV: VENTRICULAR ARRHYTHMIAS, hypertension, and or hypotension.
GI: nausea and vomiting.

Medication Administration

Subcutaneous
Intramuscular
Intravenous

Contraindications/Precautions

Contraindicated in: Hypersensitivity.

Use Cautiously in: Cardiovascular disease; Patients physically dependent on opioids (may precipitate severe withdrawal);
Obstetrics: May cause acute withdrawal syndrome in mother and fetus if mother is opioid dependent; Lactation: Safety not established;
Pediatrics: May cause acute withdrawal syndrome in neonates of opioid-dependent mothers.

Nursing Interventions

Monitor respiratory rate, rhythm, and depth; pulse, ECG, BP; and level of consciousness frequently for 3–4 hr after the expected peak of blood concentrations.

Patients who have been receiving opioids for >1wk are extremely sensitive to the effects of naloxone. Dilute and administer carefully.

Assess patient for level of pain after administration when used to treat postoperative respiratory depression. Naloxone decreases respiratory depression but also reverses analgesia.

Assess patient for signs and symptoms of opioid withdrawal (vomiting, restlessness, abdominal cramps, increased BP, and temperature).

Interactions

Drug-Drug: Can precipitate withdrawal in patients physically dependent on opioid analgesics.
Larger doses may be required to reverse the effects of buprenorphine, butorphanol, nalbuphine, or pentazocine.
Antagonizes postoperative opioid analgesics.

Client Education

Explain purpose and effects of naloxone to patient as the medication becomes effective.

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Adequate ventilation.
Alertness without significant pain or withdrawal symptoms.