

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

STUDENT NAME _____

MEDICATION Heart Failure and Pulmonary Edema

REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER 32

CATEGORY CLASS _____

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

- Herbal medications to stimulate the cardiovascular system
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Therapeutic Use

- Ventricular assist device (VAD) which is a mechanical pump that assists a heart that is too weak to pump blood through the body
- Heart transplantation a possible option for clients who have end-stage heart failure

Complications

- Acute pulmonary edema
- Cardiogenic shock
- Pericardial tamponade

Medication Administration

- Diuretics which are used to decrease preload
- Afterload-reducing agents which do help the heart pump more easily by altering the resistance to contraction
- Inotropic agents which are used to increase contractility and thereby improve cardiac output
- Beta-adrenergic blockers used to improve the condition of the client who has sustained

Contraindications/Precautions

- Assess for contraindications: active bleeding, peptic ulcer disease, history of cerebrovascular accident, and recent trauma
- Organ transplant recipients are at risk for infection, thrombosis, and rejection
- Cardiac tamponade can result from fluid accumulation in the pericardial sac

Nursing Interventions

- Administer oxygen as prescribed
- Monitor vital signs and hemodynamic pressures
- Position the client to maximize ventilation
- Check ABGs, electrolyte and chest x-ray findings
- Maintain dietary restrictions as prescribed
- Provide emotional support to the client and family
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Interactions

- Monitor clients taking ACE inhibitors for hypotension following the initial dose
- Monitor for increased levels of potassium
- Observe the client for nausea and vomiting
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Client Education

- Provide emotional support for the client and family
- Take medications as prescribed
- Teach clients taking loop or thiazide diuretics to ingest foods and drinks that are high in potassium to counter the effects of hypokalemia
- Instruct the client to have blood monitored routinely to check bleeding times.
- Get vaccinations

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

- Herbal medications can stimulate the cardiovascular system