Oral Cholinergics

Prototype Med Bethanechol (Urecholine)

Action: Agonist that acts on the bladder. Avtivates muscarinic reseptors in the detrusor muscle that lines the bladder causing it to contract.

Therapeutic Use

Treatment of urinary retention

Adverse Drug Reactions

Hypotension, bradycardia

Excessive gastric acid and salivation, diarrhea, fecal incontinence

Bronchoconstriction

Dizziness, fainting

Nursing Interventions

Monitor blood pressure, heart rate, and bowel elimination patterns

Monitor respiratory status.

Monitor for dizziness.

For in-patient use, have a bedpan or urinal readily available and assist with ambulation.

Administration

Take orally three to four times a day.

Take 1 hr before or 2 hr after meals.

Patient Education

Report dizziness, difficulty breathing, or fainting

Increase fluid intake to maintain hydration.

Do not engage in dangerous activities if dizziness occurs or tends to recur.

Sit or lie down if feeling dizzy.

Contraindications

Hypotension, Hyperthyroidism

Low cardiac output, Asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Gastric ulcers, Intestinal obstruction, Recent intestinal surgery

Urinary tract obstruction or bladder wall weakness

Precautions

Bacteremia

History of syncope

Interactions

Cholinesterase inhibitors worsen cholinergic effects and increase the risk of toxicity

Mecamylamine (Inversine) worsens abdominal symptoms and hypoten- sion.

Procainamide (Pronestyl), quinidine, atropine, and epinephrine interfere with therapeutic effects.

MEME

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