

Decrease: antihypertensive effect—ephedra (ma huang)

Drug/Lab Test

Increase: ANA titer, blood glucose, alk phos, LDH, AST, ALT, uric acid

False increase: urinary catecholamines

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

Assess:

- **Hypertension:** monitor B/P before starting treatment, periodically thereafter; note pulse, rate, rhythm, quality; apical/radial pulse before administration; notify prescriber of any significant changes, watch for orthostatic hypotension

- **HF: I&O, weight daily; fluid overload: weight gain, jugular venous distention, edema, crackles in lungs; report weight gain >5 lb**

Black Box Warning: Abrupt discontinuation: product should be tapered to prevent adverse reactions

- Baselines of renal/hepatic studies before therapy begins

- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** use only if benefits outweigh fetal risk; use caution in breastfeeding

Evaluate:

- Therapeutic response: decreased B/P after 1-2 wk

Teach patient/family:

Black Box Warning: Not to discontinue product abruptly; to taper over 2 wk; may cause precipitate angina

- Not to use OTC products containing α -adrenergic stimulants (nasal decongestants, OTC cold preparations) unless directed by prescriber

- **To report bradycardia, dizziness, confusion, depression, fever, difficulty breathing, cold extremities, confusion, rash, sore throat**

- To take pulse at home; advise when to notify prescriber

- May mask symptoms of hypoglycemia; monitor blood glucose closely in diabetes

- To avoid alcohol, smoking, increased sodium intake

- **Hypertension:** To comply with weight control, dietary adjustments, modified exercise program

- To carry emergency ID to identify product, allergies

- To avoid hazardous activities if dizziness is present

- To avoid hot baths, showers

- **To report symptoms of HF: difficulty breathing, especially on exertion or when lying down; night cough; swelling of extremities**

- To advise providers of use before surgery

- To avoid driving or other hazardous activities until response is known; dizziness, drowsiness, may occur

TREATMENT OF OVERDOSE:

Lavage, IV glucagon or atropine for bradycardia, IV theophylline for bronchospasm; digoxin, O₂, diuretic for cardiac failure; hemodialysis useful for removal/hypotension; administer vasopressor

Iacosamide (Rx)

(la-koe'sa-mide)

Vimpat

Func. class.: Anticonvulsant

Chem. class.: Functionalized amino acid

Controlled Substance Schedule V

ACTION: May act through action at sodium channels; exact action is unknown

USES: Partial-onset seizures

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Hypersensitivity

Precautions: Pregnancy, breastfeeding, children <17 yr, geriatric patients, allergies, cardiac/renal/hepatic disease, acute MI, atrial fibrillation/flutter, AV block, bradycardia, CHD, dehydration, depression, dialysis, hazardous activity, electrolyte imbalance, heart failure, labor, PR prolongation, sick sinus syndrome, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, syncope, torsades de pointes