

Verapamil

McHenry Western Lake County
EMS



Objectives

- During this session we will discuss:
- Class
- Actions
- Indications
- Contraindications
- Dosing/Routes
- How supplied
- Precautions
- Side effects



Class:

- Calcium channel blocker
- Antihypertensive
- Antiangonal



Actions:

- Calcium channel blocker
- Slows depolarization of slow-channel electrical cells
- Slows conduction through AV node to control ventricular rate associated with rapid atrial rhythms
- Relaxes vascular smooth muscle
- Dilates coronary arteries
- Decreases afterload & myocardial contractility



Indications:

- Stable SVT unresponsive to vagal maneuvers and adenosine
- To control HR in AF, A-Flutter, or multifocal atrial tachycardia with rapid ventricular response
- Angina based on medical control order



Dosing/Routes:

- 5mg slow IVP over 2 minutes
- (over 3 minutes in older patients)
- May repeat 5 mg in 15 minutes

- Onset: 1-5 min
- Peaks: 10-15 min
- Duration: 30-60 min

How supplied:

- 10mg/4ml vial



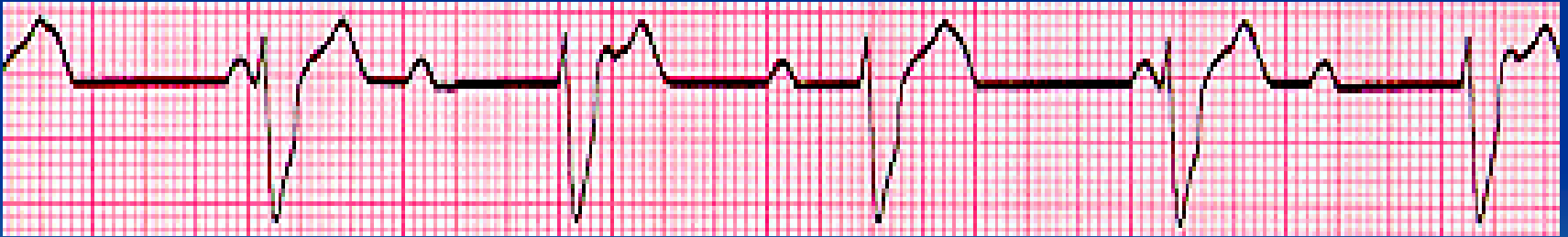
Contraindications:

- ↓ BP, HF, shock
- Wide complex tachycardia's of uncertain origin and poisoning/drug-induced tachycardia.
- 2°-3° AVB w/o a functioning pacemaker
- VT



Contraindications

- WPW, short PR and sick sinus syndromes
- Hypersensitivity



Precautions:

- May ↓ BP if used with IV or oral β blockers, nitrates, quinidine
- Peds



Side effects/adverse reactions:

- CNS: Dizziness
- CV: ↓ BP from vasodilation, decreased myocardial contractility, sinus arrest, heart blocks, nodal escape rhythms, rarely bradycardia/asystole
- GI: Nausea/vomiting
- Skin: Injection site reaction, flushing
- Ref: MWLCEMS Protocol and 2000 Mosby's Nursing Drug Reference Book



Case Study

- You are treating a 63 y/o female who has not responded to Adenosine. Your next drug of choice is Verapamil. What is the correct dose for this patient?



Answer

- 5 mg slow IVP over 2 minutes (over 3 minutes in older patients)



Question?

- Can you give her more Verapamil?



Answer

- Yes...you may repeat the dose of 5 mg in 15 minutes.

