

CORDARONE (brand), AMIODARONE (generic)

ACTION: Amiodarone is considered a “broad spectrum” antiarrhythmic medication. It has multiple and complex effects on the electrical activity of the heart such as: 1) A delay in the rate at which the heart repolarizes. 2) A prolongation in the action potential of the heart. 3) A slowing of the speed of electrical conduction. 4) A reduction in the SA nodes firing rate. 5) A slowing of conduction accessory pathways. In addition to being an antiarrhythmic, amiodarone also causes blood vessels to dilate. This effect can result in a drop in blood pressure.

INDICATIONS:

1. Ventricular tachycardias (with and without a pulse)
2. Ventricular fibrillation (VF)
3. As prophylaxis following successful conversion of VF or VT or ICD firing
4. WPW and PSVT with physician order

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Allergy or known hypersensitivity to amiodarone or its components including iodine
2. Patients in cardiogenic shock
3. Sinus bradycardia and second or third degree AV block (be ready to pace patient if severe bradycardia occurs)

PRECAUTIONS:

1. As with all antiarrhythmics, amiodarone may cause a worsening of existing arrhythmias or precipitate a new arrhythmia.
2. May produce vasodilation and hypotension.
3. May have negative inotropic effects
4. Watch for prolongation of QT interval
5. ½ life is extremely long (up to 40-60 days)
6. Use with caution if renal failure is present due to extremely long ½ life.
7. May interact with beta-blockers such as atenolol, propranolol, metoprolol, or certain calcium-channel blockers such as verapamil or diltiazem, resulting in excessively slow heart rates.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS:

1. Hypotension, bradycardia, and arrhythmias
2. Prolonged QT interval
3. Cardiac arrest

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Patient must be on ECG monitor and Vital signs should be monitored at least every 5 minutes.
2. **VF/ Pulseless VT:**
 - A. Administer 300 mg IV/IO push, repeat 150 mg IV/IO push in 3-5 minutes. Further orders must come from Medical Control Physician.
3. **VT with a pulse:**
 - A. Administer an initial bolus of 150 mg IV/IO slowly (2-3 min). May repeat 150 mg IV/IO push in 10 minutes. Further orders must come from Medical Control Physician.
4. **Only symptomatic and significant PVC's (frequent, coupled, multiformed, or close-coupled), AICD firing, and nonsustained V-tach:**
 - A. Administer Amiodarone 150 mg IV/IO slowly (over 2-3 minutes).

PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:

1. As an antiarrhythmic in Pediatrics:
 - A. Do not use in neonates!
 - B. Contact Medical Control Physician for possible initial bolus of 5 mg/kg IV/IO over 20-60 minutes.
2. VF/Pulseless VT: 5mg/kg IV/IO push

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Draw up slowly, Amiodarone will foam and you will not be able to use it.
2. Flush line with saline after use

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