

PROTOTYPE DRUG

digoxin (Lanoxin)

PRIMARY USE

to increase contractility or strength of myocardial contraction

MECHANISM OF ACTION

To cause a more forceful heartbeat, slower heart rate by decreasing conduction through the SA and AV nodes

Cardiac Glycosides

Increase force of heartbeat, slow heart rate

Improve cardiac output

Second-line treatment for HF

Narrow therapeutic range

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Neutropenia

Dysrhythmias

Digitalis toxicity (Digitalization refers to a procedure in which the dose of digoxin is gradually increased until tissues become saturated with the drug, and the symptoms of HF diminish)

NURSE'S ROLE

Evaluate for ventricular dysrhythmias

Assess renal function

Know restrictions on use with antidiarrheals/antacids

MONITOR FOR:

drug interactions

electrolyte levels

digoxin level (0.5 - 2 mg/mL)

PATIENT TEACHING:

Monitor - therapeutic levels w/ lab tests
- pulse rate

Know s/s of toxicity (confusion, irregular pulse, loss of appetite, N/V, diarrhea, tachycardia, vision changes)

Report weight changes

Eat foods high in potassium

