

Heart Block

[Caution-tape Heart with Block](#)

Digoxin is contraindicated in patients with heart block, as well as, in pregnancy, acute myocardial infarction, and hypokalemia.

Nursing Considerations

Heart Rate Below 60

[Heart-timer Less-than 60](#)

Before administering medication, take an apical pulse for 1 full minute noting rate and rhythm and quality. Withhold the medication and notify the health care provider if rate falls below 60.

Hypokalemia

[Hippo-banana](#)

Never give digoxin to a patient who is already hypokalemic, as this potentiates digoxin toxicity. Because digoxin normally competes with K⁺ ions for the same binding site on the Na⁺/K⁺/ATPase pump, hypokalemia can make toxicity present more quickly.

Monitor for Toxicity and Visual Changes

[Toxic-green-ooze and Delta-eyes](#)

Signs and symptoms of digoxin toxicity become more frequent with levels above 2 ng/ml, and may include anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, and visual disturbances, such as blurry vision that often has a yellow hue. Levels are usually checked every 6 months along with other lab values.

Digibind

[Digital-ox-bound by Cowboy](#)

Digibind is an antidote for digoxin toxicity. It works by binding to digoxin and preventing it from working in the body.