Prazosin (Minipress)

Prazosin (Minipress) is an alpha blocker that selectively inhibits alpha1-adrenergic receptors. This action promotes the relaxation and widening of blood vessels for increased blood flow and relaxes the smooth muscles in the bladder neck and prostatic capsule. Prazosin is indicated to treat hypertension and benign prostate hypertrophy. Side effects may include orthostatic hypotension, reflex tachycardia, inhibition of ejaculation, and nasal congestion. Advise the patient to take this drug at bedtime to minimize the risk of the medication's first dose effect, which is severe orthostatic hypotension. This medication's "-osin" suffix indicates its action as an alpha-adrenergic blocker.



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-osin suffix
Ocean
This medication's "-osin" suffix indicates its action as an alpha-adrenergic blocker.

Mechanisms

Selective Alpha-1 Receptor Blocker
Afro (1) Wand Receptor Block-guy
Prazosin selectively blocks certain alpha1-adrenergic receptors causing blood vessel dilation and smooth muscle relaxation of the bladder neck and prostatic capsule. This action relaxes the blood vessels and allows blood to flow more easily.

Indications

Hypertension
Hiker-BP
As an alpha-1-adrenergic antagonist, prazosin is indicated to treat hypertension by decreasing blood pressure. This drug blocks the alpha receptors in the walls of blood vessels, allowing the vessels to relax and widen while decreasing peripheral vascular resistance.

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)
Bunny Plum Hiker-plates
Prostate gland enlargement is common in older men and causes urinary issues. Prazosin functions by blocking alpha receptors and relaxing the muscles surrounding the bladder neck (trigone and sphincter) and prostate capsule. This action allows urine to flow more easily in patients with BPH.

Nightmares
Night-mare
Prazosin is routinely given at a low dose for patients experiencing nightmares or sleep disturbances and is thought to do so by decreasing amounts of systemic adrenaline while sleeping.

Side Effects

Orthostatic Hypotension
Oar Hippo-BP
Prazosin's blockade of adrenergic receptors affects the body's ability to vasoconstrict and maintain blood pressure. This medication may cause orthostatic hypotension. Instruct the patient to move slowly from a supine position to an upright position. Inform the patient to sit or lie down if experiencing dizziness or lightheadedness.

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Tachycardia

Tac-heart-card

By causing the adrenergic receptors to widen blood vessels, Prazosin decreases vascular resistance and lowers the heart's effort to effectively pump blood throughout the body. The decrease in blood pressure triggers the body to overcompensate by increasing the heart rate.

Priapism / Inhibition of Ejaculation

Pitching-a-tent

Prazosin blocks adrenergic receptors in the prostate, causing relaxed blood vessels and increased blood flow. This blood flow can cause a painful, lasting erection - a condition known as priapism.

Nasal Congestion

Stuffed Nose

Prazosin affects the adrenergic receptors in the nasal mucosa and causes vasodilation of the nasal arterioles. Inform the patient that this drug may cause nasal congestion.

Considerations

First Dose Effect

First-place-ribbon Dose

Profound orthostatic hypotension may occur with initial prazosin administration. A small percentage of patients may lose consciousness within 60 minutes of taking the medication. To minimize the first dose effect, the initial dose should be 1 mg or less and administered at bedtime.

Administer at Bedtime

Take in Bed

Since this medication blocks alpha-1-adrenergic receptors and affects the body's ability to vasoconstrict, administer prazosin at bedtime to minimize the high risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope.

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