

### 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 anti-diarrheals/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 (confusion, irregular pulse, loss of appetite, N/V, diarrhea, toxicity tachycardia, vision changes)

Report weight changes

Eat foods high in potassium

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