

### DIRECT VASODILATORS

Minor role in HF treatment

Lower BP

Relax blood vessels

### PROTOTYPE DRUG

hydralazine (Apresoline)

[Sometimes used in combination with isosorbide dinitrate (Isordil)]

### PRIMARY USE

Antihypertensive

Treatment of hypertensive emergencies

### MECHANISM OF ACTION

<b>hydralazine</b> vasodilates arterial smooth muscles;	<b>isosorbide</b> vasodilates veins
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Both drugs act synergistically, thus often combined when treating African Americans for HF

### ADVERSE EFFECTS

Stopping abruptly can cause rebound HTN

Other **side effects** include:

- flushing
- reflex tachycardia
- palpitations
- lupus-like reaction
- hypotension

**Contraindicated** in those with: tachycardia, angina, or rheumatic heart disease

### NURSE'S ROLE

Monitor BP & HR

### PATIENT TEACHING:

Do not stop taking abruptly (rebound HTN)

Monitor BP



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