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

hydralazine vasodilates arterial smooth muscles; **isosobride** vasodilates veins

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
- palpatations
- 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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