August 2012

Heart Failure

1. Q: What medications will worsen heart failure?

A: 1. Anti-inflammatory medications: Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Aspirin,Cox 2 inhibitors - Celebrex

 2. Anti-Arrhythmia medications: Diltiazem, Verapamil

 3.Decongestant medications

1. Q: What are the classes of drugs used to control heart failure?

A: 1. Diuretics, Beta-Blockers, Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors, Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers, Calcium Channel Blockers, Aldosterone Antagonists, Digoxin, Nitrates, Antiarrhythmics

1. Q: Which heart failure patients are to use ACE inhibitors?

A: All heart failure patients.

1. Q: What blood parameter is to be monitored with ACE inhibitor use, at what level?

A: Serum creatinine; may increase up to 30%, which is expected and acceptable.

1. Q: Which Beta Blocker medications are acceptable for heart failure treatment?

A: 1. Bisoprolol 2. Carvedilol

1. Q: Dose titration should be at what intervals for Beta Blockers?

A: At 2 to 4 week intervals

1. Q: What daily monitoring is useful for patients on Beta Blocker medications?

A: Morning body weight

1. Q: Which diuretics are recommended for heart failure?

A: Thiazides, but loop diuretics such as Furosemide are often required.

1. Q: When are ARBs to be used instead of ACE Inhibitor medications?

A: ACE Inhibitor induced cough or angioedema

1. Q: What are the ARB medications?

A: 1. Candesartan 2. Valsartan 3. Losartan

1. Q: What problems do ACE Inhibitors and ARB medications share?

A: 1. Renal dysfunction 2. Hyperkalemia

1. Q: Name Aldosterone Antagonist medications:

A: 1. Eplerenone 2. Spironolactone

1. Q: In what class of heart failure does Spironolactone give good results?

A: Class 3 or 4 heart failure

1. Q: Name Calcium Channel Blocker medications safe to use in heart failure:

A: 1. Felodipine, 2. Amlodipine

1. Q: Which antiarrhythmic medications are considered for heart failure?

A: 1. Amiodarone 2. Dronedarone

1. Q: The presence of a cough when using an ACE inhibitor indicates:

A: Heart failure decompensation.