


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: AMIODARONE (CORDARONE®)
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Amiodarone

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Class III anti-arrhythmic with characteristics of all four classes of anti-arrhythmics
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Blocks sodium channels at rapid pacing frequencies
 - b. Exerts a non-competitive anti-sympathetic action
 - c. Inhibits potassium and lengthens cardiac action potential
 - d. Possesses negative chronotropic effect and causes vasodilation
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. V-fib / pulseless V-Tach
 - b. Hemodynamically stable V-Tach
 - c. Wide Complex tachycardia of unknown etiology
 - d. Ventricular ectopy
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Hypotension
 - b. Known allergy to iodine
 - c. Marked bradycardia
 - d. 2nd or 3rd degree AV block
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. Beware of the high incidents of adverse reactions.
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Hypotension
 - b. Bradycardia and AV block
 - c. CHF
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
 - a. Variable
8. INFORMATIONAL POINTS
 - a. BEWARE – treating ventricular escape beats as PVCs can be fatal.
 - b. Sodium Bicarbonate – forms a precipitate when mixed with amiodarone.