


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: DILTIAZEM (CARDIZEM®)
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Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director

Diltiazem

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Calcium channel blocker
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Slows cardiac conduction (negative dromotropic effects)
 - b. Increases refractoriness in the AV node
 - c. Slows AV conduction:
 - i. Repolarization is prolonged, resulting in increased refractory period
 - ii. No effect on fastcalcium channels of the "Bundle of His", atria, ventricles, or accessory pathways
 - d. Causes coronary vasodilation
 - e. Dilation of smooth muscle cells results in decrease vascular resistance and thus lower BP
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. SVT
 - b. Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. CHF
 - b. 2nd and 3rd degree AV blocks
 - c. Severe hypotension or cardiogenic shock
 - d. Atrial fib/flutter associated with WPW
 - e. Concomitant use of IV beta blockers
 - f. VT or Wide Complex Tachycardia
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. Increases levels of carbamazepine
 - b. Cimetidine may inhibit diltiazem metabolism
 - c. Diltiazem may increase digoxin levels
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Hypotension
 - b. 1st and 2nd degree AV blocks
 - c. Bradycardia
 - d. Chest pain
 - e. CHF
 - f. Ventricular dysrhythmias
 - g. Syncope
 - h. Asystole
7. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
 - a. Blood pressure should be 90 to 100 mmHg
 - b. Slow infusion
 - c. Probably will control rate but not convert atrial fibrillation or flutter