


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: DOPAMINE (INTROPIN®)
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Dopamine

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Sympathomimetic
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Acts primarily on alpha, beta₁, & adrenergic receptors in dose-dependent fashion.
 - b. Low doses (1.0 – 3.0 mcg/kg/min) are considered "renal doses" that cause renal, mesenteric, and cerebral vascular dilation.
 - c. Moderate doses (5.0 – 10 mcg/kg/min) are "cardiac doses"
 - i. Beta₁ effect.
 - ii. Increased in inotropic effect with increase in cardiac output and BP
 - d. High doses (10 – 20 mcg/kg/min) are "vasopressor doses"
 - i. Alpha adrenergic effect
 - ii. Peripheral arterial and venous constriction
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. Hemodynamically significant hypotension in the absence of hypovolemia (post resuscitation hypotension)
 - b. Cardiogenic shock
 - c. Symptomatic bradycardia
 - d. Neurogenic shock
 - e. Septic shock
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Hypovolemia
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. Known allergy to drug
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Alpha blockers antagonize dopamine's effects
 - b. Beta blockers antagonize dopamine's effects
7. QA POINTS
 - a. NOT used in trauma
 - b. Pump is required
 - c. Infuse through large, stable vein to avoid the possibility of extravasation injury
 - d. Has all actions at any dose, but is more pronounced at specific dose ranges