Health ONE EMS
Emergency Medical Services

General Pharmacology

Pharmacology

The study of drugs, their sources, characteristics, and effects

Medications Carried on the EMS Unit

- Activated charcoal
- Oral glucose
- Oxygen

Medications Prescribed to Patients

- Prescribed inhaler
- Nitroglycerin
- Epinephrine

What the EMT-B Needs to Know About Medications

- All listed in U.S. Pharmacopoeia
- Generic name
- Chemical name
- Trade name

3 Types of Medication Names

- Generic name: epinephrine
- Chemical name:B-(e,4dihydroxyphenyl)amethylamino ethanol
- Trade name: Epi-Pen

Indication

Specific sign, symptom, or circumstance that makes it appropriate to adminster a drug

Contraindication

Specific sign, symptom, or circumstance in which it would be inappropriate, or harmful, to administer a drug

Dose

How much should be given to a patient

Actions

Desired effects on a patient

Route

How the medication is administered (i.e. orally, sublingually, by injection)

Side Effects

- Any action of the drug other than the desired actions
- Some side effects are predictable (e.g. headache as a side effect of nitroglycerin)

Proper Use of Medications in the Field

Medication Administration

- Four “Rights”
  - Right patient?
  - Right medication?
  - Right dose?
  - Right route?
- Patients must be reassessed after medication is administered
- Repeat vital signs
- Document patient’s response to medication

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Review Questions

- Define the following terms:
  - Generic name
  - Trade name
  - Indication
  - Contraindication
  - Dose
  - Action
  - Side effect
- List the forms of medications.
- List the four rights in medication administration.
- Why must patients be reassessed after medication has been given?

Street Scenes

- What additional patient history should you obtain?
- Should you let the patient take nitroglycerin? Why or why not?
- Are vital signs important if nitroglycerin is going to be taken by the patient?
- What information do you want to know about nitroglycerin?
- How should the nitroglycerin be administered?
- When should vital signs be taken again?