Duo-Neb

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Bronchodilator

Albuterol (beta-2) and ipratropium (anticholinergic/antimuscarinic)

How it works: Ipratropium blocks acetylcholine at muscarinic receptors, relaxing airway smooth muscle

USE IT FOR

- Asthma / COPD
- Bronchoconstriction refractory to albuterol
- Presents with dyspnea and wheezing (per page)

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: hypersensitivity; hypersensitivity to atropine
- Abnormal heart rhythms (per page)
- Precautions: known heart disease; closed-angle glaucoma
- Monitor BP, pulse, ECG

DOSE

Adult: [dose not stated in original text]
Peds: [dose not stated in original text]
Repeat: [dose not stated in original text]

WATCH FOR

- Sweating
- Dizziness, headache
- Palpitations / tachycardia
- Anxiety

PEARLS

- Onset <15 min; peak 1-2 hrs; half-life 4-5 hrs (per page)

Take Home Message:

Duo-Neb adds ipratropium's anticholinergic bronchodilation to albuterol for asthma/COPD bronchoconstriction refractory to albuterol alone.