Furosemide

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Loop diuretic

How it works: Inhibits sodium chloride reabsorption in the thick ascending limb

Blocks the Na+/K+/2Cl- cotransporter, promoting prompt diuresis; also vasodilation

USE IT FOR

- Congestive heart failure
- Pulmonary edema

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications (per page): pregnancy; dehydration
- Protect from light
- Monitor for excess fluid and electrolyte losses
- Possible postural hypotension
- Caution: patients with a history of hepatic cirrhosis and ascites
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 40 mg; 80 mg for patients already taking Lasix (per page)

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: [dose not stated in original text]

WATCH FOR

- Hypotension
- Vertigo
- Nausea/vomiting
- GI cramping
- Headache
- Constipation
- Tinnitus
- Blurred vision

PEARLS

- Onset 5 min; peak 30 min; half-life 2 hours (per page)

Take Home Message:

Furosemide diureses the failing, fluid-overloaded heart — 40 mg, or 80 mg if the patient already takes Lasix.