Nausea and Vomiting

REFRESHER

RECOGNIZE IT

- Goal: prevent or lessen nausea and vomiting
- Watch for extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) after antiemetics
- EPS: torticollis (head tilted to shoulder); oculogyric crisis (upward eye deviation)
- EPS: lingual protrusion; blepharospasm (blinking, involuntary eye closing); akathisia (restless, panicked, need to move)

ASSESS

- Contraindication: known allergy to the medications
- Adult vs pediatric dosing splits at 27 kg — over 27 kg, use the adult dose
- Pediatric Zofran is for patients over 2 years old

ACT — FIRST MOVES

1. Adult: Zofran 4 mg slow IVP/IM/ODT — may repeat one time
2. Adult: Compazine 5 mg slow IV push over 2 minutes, diluted in 10 mL NS
3. Pediatric: Zofran 0.15 mg/kg slow IVP/IO/IM/ODT (>2 years, <27 kg)
4. All providers: consider isopropyl alcohol pads to decrease nausea
5. EPS develops: treat with Benadryl 25 mg slow IV push

PEARLS

- The alcohol pad trick is in every provider's scope — use it while drugs are being drawn up
- Know the five EPS presentations so you recognize them as a drug effect, not a new complaint

Take Home Message:

Zofran or Compazine for the nausea, alcohol pads from anyone — and if EPS shows up, Benadryl 25 mg slow IV push is the fix.