Haloperidol

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Antipsychotic

How it works: Blocks dopamine receptors

USE IT FOR

- Agitated patients
- Aggressive behavior

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: hypersensitivity
- Patients with Parkinson's disease
- Severe CNS depression
- Comatose states
- Precautions: cardiovascular disorders — monitor for hypotension
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 5 mg IM/IV

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: One dose only (per page: 'One Dose')

WATCH FOR

- Extrapyramidal symptoms — tremors, drooling, rigidity, repetitive movements
- Somnolence

PEARLS

- Onset seconds; peak immediate; half-life 4-6 hours (per page)

Take Home Message:

Haloperidol calms the agitated, aggressive patient with one 5 mg dose — never in Parkinson's, coma, or severe CNS depression.