Prochlorperazine

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Antiemetic; antipsychotic

How it works: Blocks dopamine (D2) receptors, particularly in the chemoreceptor trigger zone

Inhibiting dopamine signaling helps prevent nausea and vomiting

USE IT FOR

- Nausea / vomiting

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: comatose patients who have received large amounts of depressants, including alcohol
- Hypersensitivity (per page)
- Dystonic reactions can occur (precaution, per page)
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, 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

- Hypotension
- Dystonic reaction — head tilt, open mouth, muscle contraction, trunk arching (per page)
- Drowsiness

PEARLS

- Treat dystonic reactions with Benadryl (per page)

Take Home Message:

Prochlorperazine stops nausea and vomiting by blocking dopamine — and its signature risk is a dystonic reaction, treated with Benadryl.