Atropine

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: antimuscarinic agent

Inhibits the muscarinic actions of acetylcholine, inhibiting parasympathetic responses

Stimulates cardiac muscle, leading to increased heart rate

Decreases smooth muscle activity, leading to decreased GI secretions

USE IT FOR

- Symptomatic bradycardia
- Hypotension secondary to bradycardia
- Organophosphate poisoning

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications: none in emergency situations
- Precautions: tachycardia, hypertension

DOSE

Adult: 1 mg IV/IO
Peds: Not stated on the page
Repeat: Not stated on the page

WATCH FOR

- Blurred vision, dry mouth, headache, dizziness, urinary retention, anxiety, palpitations/tachycardia, pupil dilation

PEARLS

- Onset immediate; peak 0.7-4 minutes (per the page's pharmacokinetics panel)

Take Home Message:

Atropine 1 mg IV/IO blocks the parasympathetic brake for symptomatic bradycardia — no contraindications in an emergency.