Keppra

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: a pyrrolidine anticonvulsant

Binds SV2A, a synaptic vesicle glycoprotein, and inhibits presynaptic calcium channels

Reduces neurotransmitter release, acting as a neuromodulator

May prevent hypersynchronization of epileptiform burst firing and seizure propagation

USE IT FOR

- Seizures: primary generalised tonic-clonic, myoclonic, or partial (as an adjunct)
- Status epilepticus (2nd tier)
- Seizure prophylaxis

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Relative contraindication: learning disability or history of psychiatric disorders — increased risk of behavioral adverse effects
- Relative contraindication: Japanese ancestry — may increase risk of rhabdomyolysis

DOSE

Adult: Status epilepticus load: 60 mg/kg IV over 10 min (no more than 5 mg/kg/min); max dose 4500 mg

Peds: Not stated separately — dosing on the page is weight-based (mg/kg)

Repeat: Then maintenance 20-30 mg/kg IV twice daily (BD)

WATCH FOR

- Rash or dermatological response — discontinue at the first sign
- Rash may be an early sign of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome or Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis

PEARLS

- A rash on this drug is a stop sign, not a side effect to watch and wait on

Take Home Message:

Keppra is a second-tier status epilepticus drug: load 60 mg/kg IV, and stop at the first sign of rash.