Dopamine

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Sympathomimetic

How it works: Inotropic properties that increase cardiac contractility

Also causes peripheral vasoconstriction

USE IT FOR

- Cardiogenic shock
- Hypovolemic shock — after complete fluid resuscitation has been administered

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypovolemic shock without fluid resuscitation
- Don't administer with tachyarrhythmias or ventricular fibrillation
- Caution with other ventricular irritability

DOSE

Adult: [not in guidelines entry — verify]

Peds: [not in guidelines entry — verify]

Repeat: [not in guidelines entry — verify]

WATCH FOR

- Ventricular tachyarrhythmias
- Angina
- Hypertension
- Headache
- Anxiety

PEARLS

- Fluids first in hypovolemic shock — the guidelines give dopamine only after resuscitation
- Carried as a premix drip (guidelines inventory, p.446)
- Monitor BP and ECG, watching for ventricular irritability

Take Home Message:

Dopamine supports the shocked heart — inotropic and vasoconstricting — but only after fluids in hypovolemic shock.