Ketorolac

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID)

Mechanism: Inhibits both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes; COX-2 mediates inflammation, pain, and fever

USE IT FOR

- Short-term pain control
- Moderate to severe nontraumatic pain

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Patients over 65, hypersensitivity, pregnancy
- Symptoms with possibility of bleeding or surgery (e.g., headaches, abdominal pain)
- Patients taking warfarin, lithium, phenytoin, digoxin, or methotrexate
- Active bleeding or trauma patients — COX-1 inhibition is the reason

DOSE

Adult: **10 mg IV/IM**

WATCH FOR

- Lethargy, nausea/vomiting, epigastric pain
- Anaphylaxis, nephrotoxicity

PEARLS

- COX-2 inhibition is what we want for pain relief; COX-1 inhibition is the part we don't

Take Home Message:

Ketorolac 10 mg IV/IM is for short-term, moderate-to-severe nontraumatic pain — never for bleeding, trauma, or possible-surgery patients.