

Unit 8: Glaucoma

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Pharmacological management of glaucoma focuses on the reduction of intraocular pressure by increasing the drainage of aqueous humour, decreasing the production, or both. What drug classes are used to reduce intraocular pressure? Describe three nursing interventions to consider with these drug classes.

Hi Class!

Drug classes that are used to reduce intraocular pressure are prostaglandin analogue, cholinergic (Miotic) and carbonic anhydrase inhibitor. Prostaglandin analogue is used to reduce intraocular pressure by increasing the outflow of aqueous humor. Some nursing interventions to consider with this drug is to withhold eye drops and notify the doctor if acute intraocular inflammation or external eye inflammation are noted, note that increased pigmentation of the iris and eyelid and any additional growth of eyelashes on the treated eye are adverse effects that may or may not develop gradually over months to years.

Cholinergic (Miotic) medications reduce eye pressure by increasing drainage of intraocular fluid. These medications can be used alone or combined with any other medications that are being used to treat glaucoma. Nursing interventions include: assessing for allergies, asthma, presence of GI or GU obstructions, peptic ulcer disease, coronary artery disease. Medication should be taken as ordered and teach patient not to abruptly stop and the prescribed dosage should be spread evenly apart.

Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors come as eyedrops or as pills. The pill form is an alternative for people whose glaucoma is not controlled by eye drop medication. Nursing interventions include: monitoring for signs and symptoms of metabolic acidosis, potassium loss, monitor intake and output when used with other diuretics and daily weight.