

Medications for Anemia

I. Drugs

A. Iron

1. Indication: IDA
2. Mech: Replaces iron stores for Hgb production
3. Adverse Effects
 - a) Constipation
 - b) Overdose Tx: Deferoxamine

B. B12

1. Indications
 - a) Pernicious Anemia
 - b) B12 Deficiency
 - c) Bariatric Surgery
2. Mech: Replenishes B12 Stores

C. Folic Acid

1. Indications
 - a) Megaloblastic Anemia
2. Mech: Replenishes Folic Acid Levels

D. Epoetin Alfa

E. Darbepoetin

1. Indications
 - a) Anemia of chronic disease
 - (1) ESRD, HIV, Bone Marrow Disorders, Prematurity, some cancers
2. Mechanism
 - a) Stimulates blood cell production
 - (1) Promotes stem cell differentiation to proerythroblasts
 - (2) Promotes release of erythrocytes from bone marrow
 - (3) Promotes hemoglobin formation
 - b) Adverse Effects
 - (1) Arthralgias
 - (2) Hypertension

Medications for Sickle Cell Disease

I. Drugs

A. Hydroxyurea

1. Indication:
 - a) Sickle Cell Disease
 - b) CML
 - c) Polycythemia Vera
2. Mech: ↑Fetal Hemoglobin
3. Adverse Effects
 - a) Cutaneous Vasculitis
 - b) Bone Marrow Suppression

B. Pentoxifylline

1. Indications
 - a) Sickle Cell Disease
 - b) PVD w/ intermittent claudication
2. Mech: Improves deformability of RBCs