

Drug Information Table

Adrenergic neuron blockers – reserpine

THERAPEUTIC USE	• Treats hypertension (not a first-line choice due to severe adverse effects)
ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS	• Severe depression and risk for suicide, which can linger after reserpine is discontinued • Bradycardia and orthostatic hypotension • GI symptoms: diarrhea, abdominal cramping
INTERVENTIONS	• Carefully monitor for and report signs of depression to provider • Ensure that lowest possible dosage of reserpine is being given • Monitor pulse rate and B/P • Assist with ambulation as needed • Monitor for and report severe or prolonged GI effects
ADMINISTRATION	• Available for oral use only • Administer with food or milk to prevent GI symptoms
CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS	• Report feelings of depression, including insomnia and loss of appetite or interest in daily activities to provider • Do not perform dangerous activities, such as driving, until effects are known • Move slowly from lying down to sitting and standing to prevent falling • Report dizziness, syncope to provider • Report prolonged or severe GI effects to provider
CONTRAINDICATIONS	• Previous allergy to rauwolfia alkaloids • Depressive disorders • Peptic ulcer or ulcerative colitis
PRECAUTIONS	• Cardiac dysrhythmias, or cerebrovascular disease • History of peptic ulcer • Older adults
INTERACTIONS	• Antihypertensive drugs can increase risk for hypotension