

Dobutamine

Dobutamine is a catecholamine that works as a beta-1 agonist, increasing inotropic activity of the heart. It is a cardiac stimulant used to treat heart failure, or in patients who have had cardiac surgery. As a beta-1 sympathomimetic, it can lead to tachycardia and arrhythmia, thus, patients should be closely monitored when this medication is given. Furthermore, other medications, such as MAOIs and TCA's may increase the potency of dobutamine.



PLAY PICMONIC

Mechanism

Beta-1 Agonist

[Beta-fish \(1\) Wand Dragonist](#)

Dobutamine's primary activity results from its stimulation of beta-1 adrenoceptors of the heart, leading to increased contractility and cardiac output.

Inotropic

[I-heart Flexing](#)

This medication is a positive inotrope, meaning that it increases cardiac output and contractility.

Indications

Heart Failure

[Dead Heart](#)

This drug is indicated for use in patients with acute, or potentially reversible heart failure to increase cardiac output. Other uses include after cardiac surgery, or in patients with cardiogenic shock.

Side Effects

Tachycardia

[Tac-heart-card](#)

Due to its beta-1 adrenergic stimulation, dobutamine can lead to tachycardia in patients.

Arrhythmias

[Broken Arrhythmia-drum](#)

As patients can develop tachycardia with administration of dobutamine, and it can lead to ventricular arrhythmias.

Considerations

Closely Monitor Patients

Monitor Close to Patient

Because of the possibility for adverse cardiac side effects, patients should be monitored when this medication is administered, via ECG for tachycardia and they should also be watched for hypertension. Typically the medication is given via continuous IV infusion in an inpatient setting.

Other Meds May Increase Potency

Med-bottles Up-arrow Pot

A notable drug interaction exists between dobutamine and MAOI's and TCA's. MAOI's and TCA's can increase the potency of dobutamine, so providers should be aware of a patient's medication history prior to administration.