

Drug Information Table

Cholinergics – bethanechol (Urecholine)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of urinary retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take orally three to four times a day. • Take 1 hr before or 2 hr after meals. • For inpatient use, have a bedpan or urinal readily available and assist with ambulation. 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension, bradycardia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor blood pressure and heart rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report dizziness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive gastric acid and salivation, diarrhea, fecal incontinence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor bowel elimination patterns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase fluid intake to maintain hydration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchoconstriction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor respiratory status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any difficulty breathing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness, fainting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for dizziness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report dizziness or fainting. • Do not engage in dangerous activities if dizziness occurs or tends to recur. • Sit or lie down if feeling dizzy.
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension • Hyperthyroidism • Low cardiac output • Asthma, COPD • Gastric ulcers • Urinary tract obstruction or bladder wall weakness • Intestinal obstruction • Recent intestinal surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteremia • History of syncope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholinesterase inhibitors worsen cholinergic effects and increase the risk of toxicity. • Mecamylamine (Inversine) worsens abdominal symptoms and hypotension. • Procainamide (Pronestyl), quinidine, atropine, and epinephrine interfere with therapeutic effects.