1-140 Galantamine use

TIPS Question:

Question is concerning the new medication Reminyl. Do you have specific side effects, contraindications, and nursing considerations for this medication?

Response:

Reminyl (Galantamine) is a Cholinergic enhancer and is in the same class as Exelon and Aricept.

Studies have shown that it is effective in delaying the progression of Alzheimer Disease. The medication has shown benefits in comparison to placebo in terms of cognition, function, and in delaying the onset of behavioural problems. It has been shown to decrease the amount of caregiver time.

As to side effects, contraindications and nursing considerations, like other Cholinergics, you need to keep in mind, MIND and MINDFULL; MIND is the acronym that identifies some of the common side effects of Cholinergic agents, muscle cramps, insomnia, nausea, and diarrhea.

There is however, some evidence that Reminyl causes less muscle cramps and insomnia in comparison to some of the other Cholinergics. The bottom line with Reminyl is to watch the GI functions.

The term MINDFULL relates to the potential side effects of all Cholinergics. These side effects appear not to be that common but are worth considering and may potentially cause some difficulties and these include:

1. A lowering of seizure threshold
2. Causing Bradycardia
3. Making respiratory problems worse, particulary asthma
4. Potentiating the risk of ulcers

A final word re: Reminyl and Cholinergics. There is some evidence that a person may respond to one cholinergic when they do not respond to another. Also, as mentioned, some individuals have sleep problems on Aricept but do not on Reminyl.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*