

## **HALOPERIDOL**

### **Mechanism**

Block dopamine D2 receptors in different parts of the brain

- Cortex & limbic system – antipsychotic effects
- Basal ganglia – extrapyramidal side effects
- Pituitary gland – hyperprolactinaemia
- Chemoreceptor trigger zone – antiemetic

May also block muscarinic,  $\alpha$ , histamine & serotonin receptors

**Tranquillise without impairing consciousness**

### **Contraindications**

- Bradycardia
- CNS depression
- Parkinson's disease
- Lewy body dementia
- Phaeochromocytoma
- QT-interval prolongation

### **SEs**

- Parkinsonian symptoms
- Dystonia
- Akathesia
- Tardive dyskinesia
- QT prolongation
- Hypertension
- Seizures
- Arrhythmias
- Dry mouth
- Blurred vision
- Urinary retention
- Constipation
- Neuroleptic malignant syndrome
  - Hyperthermia
  - Muscle rigidity
  - Extrapyramidal signs
  - Fluctuating conscious level
  - Autonomic dysfunction – sweating, labile BP, tachycardia, incontinence

**Rx Withdraw antipsychotic & administer IV dantrolene**

Ensure ECG performed prior to administering

**IV Procyclidine for dystonic reactions**

Drug	Onset	Half life	Overall duration	Dose	Max. 24hr Dose
Haloperidol	Oral 1 - 2 hrs IM 15 - 30 mins	21 hrs	18 - 24 hrs	Oral 1.5 - 5mg IM 2 - 5mg NB. Half doses in elderly	Oral 20 mg IM 12 mg

