**Nursing Process Focus:**
**Patients Receiving Dopamine (Dopastat)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Potential Nursing Diagnoses</th>
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| Prior to administration: | • Ineffective Tissue Perfusion, related to poor cardiac output  
• Impaired Gas Exchange, related to inadequate pulmonary blood flow  
• Risk for Injury (tissue), related to necrosis of local tissue from extravasation of drug  
• Deficient Knowledge, related to drug action and side effects |
| • Obtain complete health history including allergies, drug history and possible drug interactions.  
• Assess for history of cardiovascular disease, obtain EKG.  
• Assess blood pressure and pulse, urine output.  
• Assess patient’s weight. | |

**Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes**

The patient will:
• Demonstrate understanding of risks and benefits of drug therapy.  
• Maintain adequate tissue perfusion.  
• Avoid injury to tissues.  
• Maintain adequate ventilation.

**Implementation**

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<th>Interventions and (Rationales)</th>
<th>Patient Education/Discharge Planning</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| *Monitor vital signs and tissue integrity frequently. (Vasoconstrictive effects of drug can result in tissue necrosis.) | Advise patient:  
• that continuous cardiac monitoring will occur while patient is receiving medication.  
• to immediately report any numbness or tingling in the extremities, or chest pain. |
| *Monitor renal status, including urine output (usually will have Foley catheter), BUN and creatinine lab values. | *Inform patient of frequent monitoring and rationale for Foley catheter. |
| *Ensure patency of IV prior to beginning infusion and monitor site frequently. (Extravasation of medication into tissues may result in sloughing of tissue or gangrene.) | *Instruct patient to immediately report any burning at the IV site. |

**Evaluation of Outcome Criteria**

Evaluate the effectiveness of drug therapy by confirming that patient goals and expected outcomes have been met (see “Planning”).