Nursing Process Focus:  
Patients Receiving Vasopressin (Petressin)

### Assessment
Prior to administration:
- Obtain complete health history including allergies, drug history and possible drug interactions.
- Assess for presence/history of diabetes insipidus, antidiuretic hormone deficiency.  
- Obtain urine specific gravity.

### Potential Nursing Diagnoses
- Risk for Imbalanced Fluid Volume, related to patient response to drug therapy
- Ineffective Tissue Perfusion, related to vasoconstriction
- Decreased Cardiac Output, related to vasoconstriction
- Risk for Injury, related to side effect of drug therapy
- Deficient Knowledge, related to drug action and side effects

### Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes
The patient will:
- Remain free of side effects of drug including hives, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, irregular heart rhythm, increased blood pressure, decreased pulse and headache.
- Demonstrate understanding of the intended effects and the adverse effects of drug therapy.
- Maintain effective tissue perfusion.
- Maintain adequate fluid balance.

### Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions and (Rationales)</th>
<th>Patient Education/Discharge Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Monitor capillary refill in the extremities of the patient. (The vasoconstricting effects of this medication have caused gangrene in extremities. Use caution when administering this medication to patients with preexisting vascular disease.)</td>
<td>*Instruct patient to notify health care provider of any tingling, pain or lack of sensation in an extremity.</td>
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<td>*Periodically monitor urine specific gravity during therapy. (Low specific gravity indicates lack of response to the medication.)</td>
<td>*Instruct patient to check urine specific gravity and report significant changes to the health care provider.</td>
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<td>*Monitor cardiovascular status. (The use of this medication is contraindicated in patients with preexisting heart disease. It should be used cautiously in elderly patients because of the possibility of undiagnosed heart disease.)</td>
<td>*Advise patient to report to the health care provider any irregular heart beats, severe headaches, or dizziness.</td>
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| *Monitor weight and intake and output. (The effects of this drug may cause excess water retention. Lack of response to this medication will be shown by loss of weight and output greater than intake.) | Advise patient:  
- to keep an accurate record of both intake and output.  
- to weigh regularly and report weight gain or loss to the health care provider.  
- to take in fewer fluids than prior to starting this medication to help prevent the development of water intoxication. |
| *Monitor the neurological status of the patient. (Water intoxication may be first indicated by) | Advise patient:  
- to report any excess sleepiness, dizziness or |
| headache accompanied by confusion and drowsiness. | confusion to the health care provider.  
|• to use caution when driving or operating heavy machinery until response to the medication is known. |

**Evaluation of Outcome Criteria**

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