FUROSEMIDE
(fur-OH-seh-myd)
Lasix

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:
-loop diuretic

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:
-diuretic
-anti-hypertensive

MECHANISM OF ACTION:
Diuretic Action:
-inhibits the reabsorbtion of sodium and chloride in the proximal and distal tubules and the ascending loop of Henle, promoting the excretion of sodium, water, chloride, and potassium
-promotes rapid diuresis
-helps remove excess fluid in conditions of fluid overload

Anti-hypertensive Action:
-renal and peripheral vasodilation and a temporary increase in glomerular filtration rate and a decrease in peripheral vascular resistance
-decreased preload—effect begins **before** diuresis—less blood pumped by R heart to lungs

ONSET OF ACTION:
-IV: 5 minutes

DURATION OF ACTION:
-IV: 2 hours

INDICATIONS:
-CHF
-pulmonary edema

CONTRAINDICATIONS:
-dehydration
-hypovolemia
-pregnancy
-hypotension
-hypokalemia

SIDE EFFECTS:
-hypovolemia/dehydration
-vertigo, HA, dizziness
-tinnitis/transient deafness with too rapid an IV injection (can be permanent)
-frequent urination

INTERACTIONS:
-increased risk of arrhythmias if patient is taking Digoxin
-potentiates the hypotensive effect of most anti-hypertensives and other diuretics
-lithium (may increase lithium levels)

DOSAGE:
-0.5 – 1.0 mg/kg **slow** IV push over 1-2 minutes
-dosage range is usually between 20 – 80 mg.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
-protect drug from light
-use cautiously in patients with renal failure or liver disease
-may cause reaction in patients allergic to sulfa drugs
-in the hospital, doses up to 200 mg are not uncommon
-patient should be catheterized