

# Alpha-Beta Blocker

**Mechanism of action:** combines of alpha blocker and beta blocker. Relaxes blood vessels, slows heart rate, and decreases contraction of the heart

## Drug names:

- Carvedilol (Coreg)
- Labetalol

## Side effects:

- Dizziness, light-headedness
- Weakness
- Hypotension
- Hyperglycemia
- Diarrhea
- Impotence

## Adverse effects:

- Life-threatening dysrhythmias, hypertension, or chest pain can occur if alpha-beta blockers are suddenly stopped
- Weight gain, swelling in ankles and feet

## **Nursing Considerations:**

- Check blood pressure and heart rate before administration. If blood pressures is less than 90/60 mmHg or heart rate is less than 60 bpm, do not administer the medication
- Check glucose in patients with diabetes
- Record a baseline weight
- Continue to monitor blood pressure, heart rate, and blood glucose
- Assess heart rate and rhythm- report an irregular rhythm or heart rate less than 50 bpm
- Monitor intake and output
- Assess for weight gain or fluid retention
- Teach patients to avoid suddenly stopping the medication