4.6: Muscarinic Receptor Agonists

Pilocarpine is a muscarinic receptor agonist.

- **Mechanism of Action:** Pilocarpine causes the ciliary muscle to contract, allowing for the drainage of aqueous humor from the anterior chamber of the eye and reducing intraocular pressure related to glaucoma.
- **Indication:** Pilocarpine is used to treat glaucoma.
- **Nursing Considerations:** Remove contact lens before administration. Apply light finger pressure on lacrimal sac for 2 minutes after instilling to minimize systemic absorption.
- **Patient Teaching & Education:** Advise the patient to use caution with night driving. Additionally, use of this medication can cause hypotension.

Now let's take a closer look at the medication grid on pilocarpine in Table 4.6.

Table 4:6 Pilocarpine Medication Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class/Subclass</th>
<th>Prototype/Generic</th>
<th>Administration Considerations</th>
<th>Therapeutic Effects</th>
<th>Side/Adverse Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muscarinic Agonist</td>
<td>pilocarpine</td>
<td>Remove contact lens before administration</td>
<td>Controls intraocular pressure in glaucoma</td>
<td>Caution with night driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apply light finger pressure on lacrimal sac for 2 minutes after instilling to minimize systemic absorption</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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