Chapter 4:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Discuss the epidemiology of heart failure, including its prevalence and impact on healthcare expenditures, and why heart failure prevalence is increasing.
2. Determine the most likely etiology of heart failure, given a patient’s past medical history and diagnostic test findings.
3. List the compensatory mechanisms activated in systolic heart failure and explain why they are detrimental in the long term.
4. Evaluate the neurohormonal paradigm of systolic heart failure pathophysiology and how this paradigm assists in our understanding of drug therapy.
5. Determine potential causes of heart failure exacerbation.
7. Design an appropriate pharmacotherapy regimen for a patient with Stage A to D systolic heart failure.
8. Develop a drug therapy monitoring plan for a patient with symptomatic heart failure associated with either reduced or preserved systolic function.
9. Recommend changes in heart failure pharmacotherapy in order to optimize the therapeutic regimen and positively impact morbidity and mortality.
10. Differentiate between the role of ACE inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers in the treatment of heart failure.
11. Discuss the benefits and difficulties associated with use of β-blockers in heart failure and devise a plan for their safe and effective use.
12. Describe the justification for use of diuretics in treatment of heart failure and make recommendations regarding appropriate diuretic use and monitoring.
13. Debate the role of digoxin in treatment of heart failure patients and devise a plan for its safe and effective use.
14. Evaluate the role of aldosterone receptor antagonists, angiotensin receptor blockers, and the combination of hydralazine and nitrates in the management of heart failure.