Chapter 17:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Discuss the molecular and cellular mechanisms comprising the pathophysiology of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).
2. Recognize the signs and symptoms associated with the clinical presentation of patients with PAH.
3. List the diagnostic tests involved in the assessment of patients presenting with PAH.
4. State the goals of treatment for PAH.
5. Identify the nonpharmacologic treatments of PAH and their role in therapy.
6. Identify the conventional therapy of patients with PAH, including the use of oral anticoagulants, diuretics, oxygen, and digoxin.
7. Compare and contrast the mechanisms of action for the various classes of PAH pharmacotherapy: synthetic prostacyclin and prostacyclin analogs, endothelin receptor antagonists, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, and calcium-channel blockers.
8. Following evaluation of functional class, hemodynamics, 6-minute walk distance, and other biomarkers, determine appropriate pharmacotherapy for patients with PAH given a treatment algorithm.