

COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY 10709

Digitalis is not indicated in sinus tachycardia or premature systoles in the absence of heart failure.

"Cardiogenic shock"—the value of digitalis is not established, but the drug is often employed, especially when the condition is accompanied by pulmonary edema. Digitalis seems to adversely affect shock due to infections.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

The presence of toxic effects (See "Overdosage") induced by any digitalis preparation is an absolute contraindication to all of the glycosides.

Allergy, though rare, does occur. It may not extend to all preparations and another may be tried.

Ventricular Fibrillation.

Ventricular tachycardia, unless congestive failure supervenes after a protracted episode not itself due to digitalis.

WARNINGS

Many of the arrhythmias for which digitalis is advised are identical with those reflecting digitalis intoxication. If the possibility of digitalis intoxication cannot be excluded, cardiac glycosides should be temporarily withheld if permitted by the clinical situation.

The patient with congestive heart failure may complain of nausea and vomiting. These symptoms may also be indications of digitalis intoxication. A clinical determination of the cause of these symptoms must be attempted before further drug administration.