

# Dopamine

## **What is Dopamine?**

Dopamine is a medication used to increase blood pressure and/or increase perfusion (blood flow) to the kidneys to potentially increase urine output.

## **How do you know if my baby needs Dopamine?**

Infants have low blood pressure for a variety of reasons. Your doctor will discuss the reason with you. Sometimes, if a baby has low blood pressure, they will receive a bolus of IV fluids or a blood component. A bolus is a larger amount of fluid given over a short period of time. If this doesn't work, or if your baby is critically ill, the doctor may give Dopamine sooner.

Also, infants have low urine output for a variety of reasons. Dopamine is sometimes given in an attempt to bring the urine output back to normal.

## **How long will my baby need the Dopamine?**

When your baby starts to do better, the Dopamine will *slowly* be taken away. This may take a few days.

## **How is Dopamine given?**

Dopamine is given through an IV at a continuous rate.