



NITROGLYCERIN (NITROSTAT)



Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

ACTIONS

Nitroglycerin is a direct vasodilator, which acts principally on the venous system although it also produces direct coronary artery vasodilation as a result.

There is a decrease in venous return, which decreases the workload on the heart and thus, decreases myocardial oxygen demand.

Sublingual nitroglycerin is readily absorbed.

Pain relief occurs within one to two minutes and therapeutic effects can last up to 30 minutes.

INDICATIONS

Chest pain or discomfort associated with suspected AMI or Angina Pectoris.

Pulmonary edema with hypertension.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Patients with increased intracranial pressure, systolic <100 mm Hg.

Children under 12.

If the patient has pulmonary hypertension as part of their past medical history, make sure they are not taking a Sildenafil (vagra-like) drug. This class of drugs is now being used to treat pulmonary hypertension in select individuals. Giving nitroglycerine to these patients as may cause a serious or fatal drop in BP. Revatio is one trade name.



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Approved by:


Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



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ADVERSE REACTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS

CNS: Headache, dizziness, flushing, nausea and vomiting.

Cardiovascular: Hypotension, reflex tachycardia.

PRECAUTIONS

Tolerance to nitrates easily develops, which necessitates increasing the dosage.

Nitroglycerin tablets are inactivated by light, heat, air and moisture.

Must be kept in amber glass containers with tight-fitting lids.

Do not leave cotton in container.

Once opened, nitroglycerin has a shelf life of 3 months.

Patients should keep all but a few days' supply of the drug in the refrigerator.

Do not shake Nitrolingual spray.

Alcohol will accentuate vasodilating and hypotensive effects.

DOSAGE

Adult: 0.4 mg (1 tablet or 1 spray sublingual).

May repeat in 3-5 minutes (maximum 1.2 mg or 3 doses).



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