

NITROGLYCERIN (NTG) (generic), NITRO-BID, NITRO-DUR, NITROL (brand)

ACTION: Antianginal, coronary and peripheral vasodilator

INDICATIONS:

1. Chest pain of suspected cardiac origin
2. Pulmonary edema
3. Hypertension (only on physician order)

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Allergy or known hypersensitivity to nitroglycerin
2. Head trauma
3. Hypovolemia, hypotension (BP < 90 systolic in adults), and shock
4. Recent sildenafil [Viagra, Levitra (24 hrs.) or Cialis (48 hrs.)] ingestion

PRECAUTIONS:

1. BLS: May be administered only to patients for whom it is prescribed.

ADVERSE REACTIONS/SIDE EFFECTS:

1. Headache, dizziness, and weakness
2. Tachycardia, fainting, and hypotension

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Establish IV NS TKO.
2. Inquire about Viagra, Levitra or Cialis use.
3. **Basic Life Support:**
 - A. Assist patient in taking NTG as prescribed by personal physician.
 - B. If systolic BP drops < 90 after any NTG, discontinue NTG and administer a 250 cc fluid bolus.
4. **Basic Life Support with IV training:** If IV is established and systolic BP is at least 110, contact medical control operator for orders to administer up to 2 NTG SL 3 – 5 minutes apart. Further NTG orders must come from Medical Control Physician.
5. **Advanced Life Support:**
 - A. For myocardial ischemia or pulmonary edema:
 1. Give 0.4 mg (gr 1/150) NTG tablet or one metered dose NTG spray sublingually. Repeat vitals.
 2. Repeat tablet or spray sublingually every 5 minutes as long as pain or pulmonary edema persists and patient is not hypotensive, regardless if patient has taken own prescription.
 3. If patient tolerates first NTG dose and blood pressure is > 110/P, patient can receive 1" NTG paste instead of repeat doses of spray or tablets (MUST NOTIFY NURSE IF PASTE IS USED).
 4. Notify medical control that NTG has been given.
 - B. CHF/Pulmonary Edema
 1. BP \geq 140/p give 0.8 NTG SL q. 3-5 min to patient response, if BP 90/p-139/p, administer 0.4 mg of NTG SL every 3 - 5 minutes titrated to patient response.
 - C. For hypertension: Obtain physician order.

PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Do not give to patients < 12 years without physician order.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Consider giving morphine sulfate if pain is unrelieved by NTG.
2. NTG is effective in relieving angina pectoris. Other conditions such as esophageal spasm can respond as well.