


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: NITROGLYCERIN TRANSDERMAL (NITRO-DUR®, NITRODISK®)
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Nitroglycerin – Transdermal

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Nitrate
 - b. Vasodilator
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Direct vasodilator (no alpha or beta activity)
 - b. Decreases preload primarily with some afterload reduction
 - c. Decreases workload of the heart and decreases MVO_2 .
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. Chest pain of cardiac origin
 - b. CHF
 - c. Hypertensive crisis (when metoprolol is contraindicated)
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Hypotension (systolic BP < 90 mmHg)
 - b. Head injury
 - c. Cerebral hemorrhage
 - d. Erectile dysfunction medication use within last 24 – 48 hours
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. SEVERE additive hypotension is possible if used concurrently with antihypertensives, beta and/or calcium channel blockers, or alcohol.
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Hypotension (elderly more susceptible)
 - b. Transient headache
 - c. Syncope (possibly postural)
 - d. Reflex tachycardia
 - e. Diaphoresis
 - f. Vertigo and weakness
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
 - a. Onset: 30 minutes
 - b. Duration: 2 – 12 hours
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
 - a. Forms: Paste (Nitrostat®), Patch (Nitroquick®).
 - b. Goal of cardiac chest pain treatment is pain to a zero
 - c. Erectile dysfunction medications
 - d. Right ventricular MI and hypotension
 - e. Treatment of hypotension secondary to NTG use