


Section: Drug Reference  
Subject: NITROGLYCERIN SL (NITROSTAT®, NITROQUICK®)  
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## Nitroglycerin – Sublingual

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
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: 1 – 3 minutes
  - b. Duration: 0.5 – 1 hour
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
  - a. Forms: Pills (Nitrostat®), Spray (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 IV NTG use