


Section: Drug Reference  
Subject: NITROUS OXIDE (NITRONOX®)  
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Page 1 of 1

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## Nitrous Oxide

1. CLASSIFICATION
  - a. Analgesic
  - b. Anesthetic
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
  - a. Does not have cardiovascular effects or respiratory depression
  - b. Analgesic
  - c. Anesthetic when concentration is above 50%
3. INDICATIONS
  - a. Moderate to severe pain, including chest pain of cardiac origin
  - b. Musculoskeletal injuries
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
  - a. Impaired LOC
  - b. Head injury
  - c. Chest trauma (pneumothorax)
  - d. Inability to comply with instructions
  - e. Decompression sickness
  - f. COPD
  - g. Marked abdominal distention
  - h. Bowel obstruction
  - i. Hypotension
5. ADVERSE REACTIONS
  - a. Dizziness
  - b. Vertigo
  - c. Loss of control
  - d. Expansion of gas-filled pockets
  - e. Apnea
  - f. Euphoria
6. DRUG ACTION TIME
  - a. Onset: 2 – 5 minutes
  - b. Duration: 2 – 5 minutes
7. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
  - a. Duration of action
  - b. Self administered