

Professional EMS Education Medication Profiles

Nitroglycerin	
Classification	-Anti-anginal nitrate; vasodilator
Actions	-Vasodilator -Increased venous pooling -Decreased preload -Decreased wall tension -Decreased afterload -Decreased work demand -Decreased oxygen demand -Coronary artery dilation
Indications	-Decrease pain associated with ACS -Increase coronary artery perfusion in ACS -Reduce preload in pulmonary edema
Contraindications	-Hypotension -Use of ED drugs -Head trauma -Cerebral hemorrhage -Hypersensitivity -Shock
Side effects	-Hypotension; HA; increased rate; syncope; N/V
Precautions	-Hypotension
Adult Dose	-0.4 mg every 3-5 minutes as needed for pain as long as pressure maintains -1/2 to 1 inch paste
Pediatric Dose	-N/A
Route	SL; topical
How supplied	-0.4 mg tablets -0.4 mg metered dose spray - Tube of nitro paste
Onset / Duration	-1-3 minutes / 10-20 minutes
Half Life	-1-4 minutes
Interaction	-ETOH / Antihypertensives – may compound hypotensive effect -Beta blockers – may cause orthostatic hypotension Phosphodiesterase inhibitors – may lead to profound hypotensive event