

NITROUS OXIDE (Nitronox)

CLASSIFICATION

Analgesic

ACTION

1. Nitrous oxide is a colorless gas, which acts on the central nervous system.
2. When mixed with 50% oxygen and inhaled, it produces an effect similar to a mild intoxicant. The patient laughs and talks but does not go to sleep.
3. When inhaled, nitrous oxide has potent analgesic effects, which dissipate within 2-5 minutes after stopping administration.

INDICATIONS

1. Moderate to severe pain as in trauma, acute MI, burns, renal colic and labor.
2. Patient must be able to hold mask to face to self-administer the medication.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Nitrous oxide is contraindicated in any altered state of consciousness, (eg. head injury, alcohol ingestion, drug OD).
2. It is also contraindicated in COPD patients, acute pulmonary edema, pneumothorax, decompression sickness, air embolus, and abdominal pain with distention or suspicion of obstruction, pregnancy (except during delivery), and patients that are unable to self-administer Nitronox.

ADVERSE REACTIONS, PRECAUTIONS

1. Light-headedness, confusion, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting.