

Nitrous Oxide

Generic Name: Nitrous Oxide
Trade Name: Entonox
Classification: gaseous analgesic/anesthetic
Supplied: compressed gas cylinder (50% nitrous oxide with 50% oxygen)
Actions (Pharmacodynamics): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potent analgesic, weak anesthetic at these percentages • CNS depressant with analgesic properties
Indications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain of musculoskeletal origin, particularly fractures • Burns • Pregnancy (only in active labour)
Dosage: Adult: Self administered until relief or patient drops mask Pediatric: Self administered until relief or patient drops mask
Route: Inhalation by demand valve and mask
Contraindications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to follow commands – due to interpretive problem, drugs, alcohol • Altered LOC • Significant COPD • Any traumatic chest injury • Any suspicion of pneumothorax, obstructed bowel (abdominal pain with distension) • Decompression sickness (diving in last 48 hours) • Pregnancy – except in active labor
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in well ventilated area • Ensure to invert tank three times prior to use • Do not use outside if ambient temperature is below minus six degrees Celsius (-6°C). • Do not use if frost on the tank • Prolonged use can cause hypoxemia- provide supplemental Oxygen