Nitroglycerin

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Vasodilator

How it works: Converted to nitric oxide, which activates guanylate cyclase and raises cGMP

cGMP promotes smooth-muscle relaxation and increased blood flow

USE IT FOR

- Angina pectoris
- Cardiac chest pain

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindications (per page): children under 12 years
- Hypotension (per page)
- Erectile dysfunction medications (per page)
- Have an IV established
- Constantly monitor BP
- Use caution in posterior/inferior MI
- Protect from light
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 0.4 mg SL (1 tab); 15 mg nitro paste (1 inch); 400 mcg IV (2 mL nitro in 8 mL NS, per page)

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: [dose not stated in original text]

WATCH FOR

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Hypotension

PEARLS

- SL onset 2 min, peak 5-10 min; IV onset 30 sec, peak 3-5 min; half-life 15-30 min for both (per page)

Take Home Message:

Nitroglycerin relieves cardiac chest pain — 0.4 mg sublingual — with an IV in place and constant BP monitoring.