

Medical Nitrous Oxide

(Nitrous Oxide, Ph. Eur. 100%)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you receive this treatment. It provides a summary of the information known about your treatment. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything, ask your doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor or dentist has weighed the risks of you using Medical Nitrous Oxide against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about using Medical Nitrous Oxide, ask your doctor or dentist.

Keep this leaflet with you, as you may want to read it again.

What is Medical Nitrous Oxide used for

Medical Nitrous Oxide is used for general anaesthesia or pain relief.

It is usually given with another anaesthetic and oxygen during surgery, either via a tube placed down your throat by an anaesthetist, or given with oxygen via a mask by your doctor or dentist.

Medical Nitrous Oxide works by causing unconsciousness (deep sleep) before and during surgery and by relieving pain for certain procedures.

Your doctor may prescribe Medical Nitrous Oxide for another purpose. Ask your doctor, if you have any questions about why Medical Nitrous Oxide has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take Medical Nitrous Oxide

Do not take Medical Nitrous Oxide if:

1. You have a condition where air is entrapped within your body and it might expand when given Medical Nitrous Oxide (e.g. bowel obstruction, blocked middle ear, following a recent dive). Ask your doctor for full details of these conditions.
2. You have been using it for a prolonged period without proper monitoring of your blood.
3. You are intoxicated.

You must tell your doctor or dentist if:

1. You are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.
2. You have had a reaction to Medical Nitrous Oxide or any other general anaesthetic or pain relief medication in the past.
3. You have had a general anaesthetic or surgery in the past.
4. You have or have had any other health problems or medical conditions, including:
 - Low vitamin B12 levels.
 - Conditions in which air is entrapped within the body.
 - Head injuries with impairment of consciousness.
 - Artificial, traumatic or spontaneous pneumothorax.
 - Air embolism.
 - Decompression sickness.
 - Following a recent dive.
 - Following air encephalography.
 - Severe bullous emphysema.
 - During myringoplasty.
 - Gross abdominal distension.
 - Intoxication.
 - Maxillofacial injuries.

5. You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Pregnant females may experience spontaneous abortion and low birth weight babies.

6. You have had long term usage or been chronically exposed to Medical Nitrous Oxide.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or dentist if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Your doctor may have more information on medicines to avoid while using Medical Nitrous Oxide.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Medical Nitrous Oxide.

How to use Medical Nitrous Oxide

Medical Nitrous Oxide should only be used under the supervision of your doctor or dentist.

How much to use and how to use it

The amount of Medical Nitrous Oxide given to you will be decided by your doctor or dentist, depending on the amount of pain relief or sleep required. It is usually given to you by breathing it through a mask or by a tube placed down your throat during surgery.

If you are elderly or have lung problems, you may need a lower amount of Medical Nitrous Oxide.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or dentist carefully.

These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet. If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor for help.

How long to use it

Your doctor will decide for how long you need to use Medical Nitrous Oxide.

If you use too much (overdose)

As Medical Nitrous Oxide is most likely to be given to you in hospital under the direction of your doctor or at a dentist's practice under the direction of the dentist, it is very unlikely you will receive an overdose. However, if this happened, quick action can be taken to maintain your breathing and replace the Medical Nitrous Oxide with oxygen.

If you have any questions then ask your doctor.

While you are taking Medical Nitrous Oxide

Things you must do:

Tell your doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Medical Nitrous Oxide.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Medical Nitrous Oxide.

Tell your doctor if you have taken a general anaesthetic.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Things you must not do:

Following a general anaesthetic:
Do not drive a vehicle or operate machinery for at least 24 hours after using Medical Nitrous Oxide.

General anaesthetics may cause a slight decrease in intellectual function and alertness for 2 to 3 days in some people.

Do not stop taking Medical Nitrous Oxide without first checking with your doctor.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or dentist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Medical Nitrous Oxide.

Medical Nitrous Oxide may have unwanted side effects in some people. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or dentist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- Nausea, vomiting.
- Headache, dizziness.

These side effects are usually mild.

Tell your doctor or dentist immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Confusion, excitation, depression.
- Breathing problems.
- Heart problems.
- Pins and needles, changes in sensation.
- Bleeding, fits.
- Abdominal pain, bloating.
- Addiction.
- Paraesthesiae in the legs.

- Hyper-reflexia.
- Weakness of the intrinsic hand muscles.

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare. Other side effects may occur as a result of your operation or other medications and anaesthetics received, so check with your doctor or dentist if you have any concerns.

If any of the above happen, tell your doctor or dentist immediately or go to casualty at your nearest hospital

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or dentist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Ask your doctor or dentist if you do not understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using Medical Nitrous Oxide

Storage

Medical Nitrous Oxide is supplied to the hospital or clinic or doctor and they will be responsible for ensuring the container is stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Disposal

Medical Nitrous Oxide is supplied to the hospital or clinic or doctor and they will be responsible for ensuring the container is returned to the manufacturer.

Product Description

What it looks like

Medical Nitrous Oxide is a clear, colourless, slightly sweet smelling, non-irritating gas supplied in a pressurised gas cylinder with a valve. The gas cylinder contains only Medical Nitrous Oxide.

The gas cylinders' colour code is a white body with an ultramarine shoulder, as determined by AS4484.

Cylinder sizes include: 2.8L, 9.5L, 23L, 50L, 6 Pack 300L, 12 Pack 600L as measured by nominal water capacity.

Ingredients

Active
Nitrous oxide 100% v/v.

Manufacturer/Distributor/Supplier:

Coregas Pty. Ltd.
66 Loftus Road.
Yennora, NSW. 2161
Australia

AUST R 27183

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