NICOTINE

Indications/Uses

Smoking cessation.

Dosage/Direction for Use

Adult: Buccal As chewing gum containing 2 mg or 4 mg nicotine polacrilex: Smokers of ≤20 cigarettes/day: Chew 2 mg gum when urge to smoke occurs. Smokers of >20 cigarettes/day: Start w/ 4 mg. Max: 15 gums/day. As loz containing 1, 1.5, 2 or 4 mg nicotine polacrilex or tartrate: Initial: 1 loz 1-2 hrly. Usual dose: 8-12 loz/day. Max: 30 loz (1-mg strength) or 15 loz (higher strengths)/day. Sublingual As tab containing 2 mg nicotine β-cyclodextrin complex: 1-2 tab hrly, increased as necessary. Max: 40 tab/day. Transdermal Smokers of ≤10 cigarettes/day: 14 mg/day for 6 wk, then 7 mg/day for 2 wk. Smokers of >10 cigarettes/day: 21 mg/day for 6 wk, then 14 mg/day for 2 wk; finish w/ 7 mg/day for 2 wk. Nasal As soln containing 0.5 mg/spray: 1 spray into each nostril 2 times hrly. Max: 32 mg (64 sprays)/day for 8 wk, reduced gradually until after 4 more wk. Inhalation As cartridge containing 10 mg: Initial: 6-16 cartridges/day for 12 wk, reduced gradually over a further 4-12 wk.

Administration

Gum: May be taken with or without food. Chew gum until the taste becomes strong, then rest it between the gums & the cheek. When the taste fades, start chewing it again. Repeat the chewing routine for 30 min.

Loz: May be taken with or without food. Suck until the taste becomes strong. Then, lodge the loz between the gum & cheek. When the taste fades, start sucking it again. Repeat until the loz completely dissolves (about 30 min). Do not swallow. Avoid coffee, acidic drinks or soft drinks for 15 min prior to sucking the loz.

Contraindications

Recent cerebrovascular accident. Self-medication in patients who will continue to smoke, chew tobacco, or use snuff or other nicotine-containing preparations. Non-smokers and occasional smokers.

Special Precautions

Patient w/ CV disease (e.g. MI, severe arrhythmia, unstable angina pectoris, CVA, uncontrolled HTN), peripheral vascular disease, endocrine disorder (e.g. phaeochromocytoma, hyperthyroidism, DM), peptic ulcer, and skin disease (patch). Hepatic and renal impairment. Childn. Pregnancy and Lactation. Monitoring Parameters Monitor cardiac status, vital signs and blood sugar levels.

Adverse Reactions

Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache, dizziness, hiccups, flu-like symptoms, palpitations, insomnia, vivid dreams, myalgia, chest pain, anxiety, irritability, somnolence, dysmenorrhoea; mouth (e.g. aphthous ulceration) and throat irritation; nasal irritation, epistaxis, lachrymation, salivation, swelling of the tongue (gum); unpleasant taste (loz); cough, rhinitis, stomatitis, sinusitis, dry mouth (inhalator); ear sensations (nasal spray); skin reactions (patch).

Pregnancy Category (US FDA)

Category D: There is positive evidence of human foetal risk, but the benefits from use in pregnant women may be acceptable despite the risk (e.g., if the drug is needed in a life-threatening situation or for a serious disease for which safer drugs cannot be used or are ineffective).

Drug Interactions

May enhance the haemodynamic effects of adenosine. Decreased metabolism leading to increased plasma concentrations w/ methoxsalen.

CIMS Class

Antidotes, Detoxifying Agents & Drugs Used in Substance Dependence

ATC Classification

N07BA01 - nicotine ; Belongs to the class of drugs used in the management of nicotine dependence.