

AMYL NITRITE
(AM-ill NI-tryte)
Cyanide Poisoning Antidote

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

-nitrate

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

-vasodilator
-cyanide poisoning adjunct

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

-reduces systemic vascular resistance, preload, and afterload and decreases carbon monoxide due to peripheral vasodilation
-reduces myocardial oxygen demand
-promotes formation of methemoglobin which combines with cyanide to form the non-toxic cyanmethemoglobin

INDICATIONS:

-antidote for cyanide poisoning

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

-hypersensitivity to nitrites
-anemia
-postural hypotension
-increased ICP

SIDE EFFECTS:

-CNS: headache, dizziness, weakness
-CV: orthostatic hypotension, tachycardia, palpitations

INTERACTIONS:

-use with alcohol, phenothiazines, beta blockers, or antihypertensives may cause excessive hypotension

DOSAGE:

-0.3 mL by inhalation for 15 to 30 seconds; repeat every 60 seconds
-crush 2 inhalants in a gauze pad and hold about an inch from the patient's nose
-follow with Sodium Nitrite 300 mg slow IV push over 2-4 minutes and Sodium Thiosulfate 12.5 g IV push