



**TITLE: Entonox for the Treatment of Undiagnosed Chest Pain: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines**

**DATE:** 14 October 2009

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of Entonox versus nitroglycerine for the treatment of undiagnosed chest pain?
2. What are the guidelines regarding the use of Entonox for the treatment of chest pain?

**METHODS:**

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2009), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between 1998 and October 2009. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

**RESULTS:**

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

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One relevant evidence-based guideline was identified regarding the use of Entonox for the treatment of chest pain. No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, or observational studies pertaining to the comparative clinical effectiveness of Entonox versus nitroglycerine for the treatment of undiagnosed chest pain was identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.

**OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

One guideline regarding the use of Entonox was identified.<sup>1</sup> This nursing guideline suggests that Entonox can be either self- or nurse-administered and is indicated for the management of chest pain. It is contraindicated for patients who have taken nitroglycerine within five minutes, or in patients with a suspected pneumothorax.

No information pertaining to the comparative clinical effectiveness of Entonox versus nitroglycerine for the treatment of undiagnosed chest pain was identified.

**REFERENCES SUMMARIZED:**

**Health technology assessments**

No literature identified

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**

No literature identified

**Randomized controlled trials**

No literature identified

**Controlled clinical trials**

No literature identified

**Observational studies**

No literature identified

**Guidelines and recommendations**

1. *Pain management with the use of Entonox* [Internet]. Vancouver: College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia; 2009. [cited 2009 Sep 14]. Available from: <http://www.crnbc.ca/downloads/752.pdf>

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**APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Reviews in progress**

2. *Chest pain/discomfort of recent onset* [Internet]. London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; 2009. [cited 2009 Oct 14]. (Clinical guidance in progress). Available from: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/Wave14/25>

**Guidelines**

3. *Advanced life support protocols: medications* [Internet]. Bellingham (WA): City of Bellingham; c1996 - 2009. Nitrous oxide (nitronox) [cited 2009 Oct 14]. Available from: <http://www.cob.org/cob/policies.nsf/0/92783155319FD9F2882574D40064E06D>