

**Patient
Information**

ENTONOX® (gas and air)

For patients having a Flexible Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy

Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about having ENTONOX® as pain relief during lower end endoscopic procedures.

What is ENTONOX®?

It is an odourless, colourless gas that has been used for reliable pain relief for over 150 years. It is regularly used in childbirth and other short procedures.

Why is ENTONOX® offered?

If you live alone ENTONOX® is a good alternative to sedation to help control any discomfort. It can also be used with sedation.

If you have ENTONOX® only, you will not need a responsible adult to stay with you for 24 hours.

How is ENTONOX® given?

ENTONOX® is managed by you by breathing through a mouthpiece. This is supervised by a trained healthcare professional.

ENTONOX® is safe to use as long as you are able to follow simple instructions.

How long does it take ENTONOX® to work?

ENTONOX® will begin to take effect immediately when you start to inhale the gas. When you stop breathing in the Entonox® the effects of the gas will wear off quickly.

Reference No.

GHP1663_06_21

Department

Endoscopy

Review due

June 2024

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Yes, it is. However, it is best to avoid using it during the first and second trimesters of pregnancy. Your healthcare professional will answer any questions you may have.

Are there any side-effects of using ENTONOX[®]?

You may get tingling lips and fingertips, feel a little sick or dizzy and it can also give you the 'giggles'. These effects disappear as the gas eases the pain.

You cannot overdose on this medication.

How soon can I drive after using ENTONOX[®]?

You should not drive a car or operate any machinery for at least 30 minutes after having ENTONOX[®].

Taking other medication with ENTONOX[®]

Please let the healthcare professional know if you are currently taking any other medication.

A checklist will be completed during your admission to make sure that it is safe for you to use ENTONOX[®].

If you have experienced any of the following within the last 12 weeks, ENTONOX[®] will not be suitable for you:

- Pneumothorax
- Air embolism
- Bowel obstruction
- Head injury which required you to be in hospital
- Decompression sickness

ENTONOX[®] will also not be suitable if:

- you have emphysema/COPD
- you have had recent ear/eye surgery
- you have been scuba diving in in the last 12 weeks

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Further information

BOC Healthcare

Website: www.bochealthcare.co.uk/en/products-and-services/products-and-services-by-category/medical-gases/entonox/entonox.html

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