

OXYGEN DELIVERY

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

Oxygen added to the inspired air raises the amount of oxygen in the blood and the amount delivered to tissues. Breathing in most persons is regulated by small changes in acid/base balance and Carbon Dioxide levels. .

INDICATIONS:

1. Suspected hypoxemia or respiratory distress from any cause.
2. Acute chest pain in which a myocardial infarction is suspected.
3. Suspected stroke or any condition which causes obtundation or coma.
4. Shock (decreased oxygenation of tissues) from any cause.
5. Major trauma.
6. Carbon monoxide poisoning.

ADULT

- Low flow via Nasal Prongs: 2-4 LPM
- Medium flow via Nasal Prongs: 4-8 LPM
- High flow via Simple Mask 8-15L
- Ambu Bag: 15LPM

PRECAUTIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS:

1. Non-humidified Oxygen is drying and irritating to mucous membranes.
2. Restlessness may be an important sign of hypoxia.
3. Oxygen supports combustion.
4. Oxygen toxicity (overdose) is not a hazard during acute administration, except occasionally in patients with COPD. **Do not withhold Oxygen because of this possibility** if oxygen is needed, but exercise caution and be prepared to assist ventilation if needed.
5. Nasal prongs work equally well on nose and mouth breathers.
6. If the patient has a slow ineffective respiratory rate or low ineffective tidal volume, nasal prongs or simple mask may be ineffective for Oxygen therapy. If possible, assist volume and rate with an Ambu Bag and high flow Oxygen while waiting for emergency transport.