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Project ECHO First Line Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapies: Recognizing and Managing Side Effects David P. Hunt, MPAS, PA-C



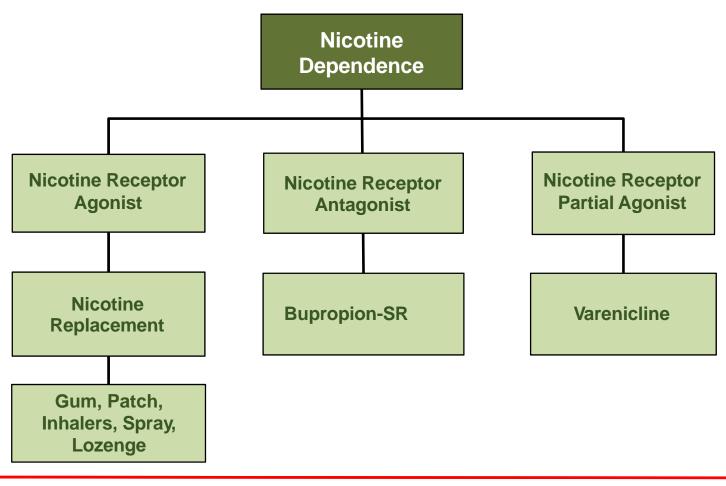


Objectives

- To be familiar with the basic pharmacologic effects of nicotine and the symptoms associated with nicotine withdrawal syndrome.
- To have an awareness of the common side effects of each of the three general categories comprising the 1st line smoking cessation medications, i.e. NRT's, Bupropion and Varenicline
- To be able to provide patient education about smoking cessation pharmacotherapies and provide useful information and direction to patients reporting side effects



Medications for Nicotine Dependence (FDA Approved as of 2011) "FIRST LINE MEDICATIONS"





Nicotine Effects

Receptor Activation

- Increase arousal
- Heighten attention
- Influence stages of sleep
- Produce states of pleasure
- Decrease fatigue
- Decrease anxiety
- Reduce pain
- Improve cognitive function

Withdrawal Symptoms

- · Mentally sluggish
- Inattentive
- Insomnia
- Boredom and dysphoria
- Fatigue
- Anxiety
- · Increase pain sensitivity
- Decrease cognitive function

Most withdrawal symptoms peak 24–48 hr after quitting and subside within 2–4 weeks





















Nicorette

NRT Formulations

3 OTC & 2 Prescription Types

- Gum (2, 4 mg; Nicorette^R)--available OTC
- Lozenge (Regular & Mini)
- Patch (up to 21 mg; e.g. Nicoderm^R)
 - --available OTC
- Nasal Spray Rx
- Nicotine"Inhaler" Rx





Making Cancer History®





















- > mouth and throat soreness
- > mouth ulcers
- ➤ hiccups
- ➤ coughing







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Nicotine Patch

ADVANTAGES

- Provides consistent nicotine levels
- Easy to use and conceal
- Fewer compliance issues
- Safe in presence of C-V disease

DISADVANTAGES

- Clients cannot titrate the dose
- Allergic reactions to adhesive may occur
- Taking patch off to sleep may lead to nicotine cravings in the morning







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Transdermal Nicotine Patches

- Various Brands available as 24 hr and 16 hr patches
- One of the most popular forms of NRT
- Most often associated with skin irritation
- Nico-Derm CQ Nicotine Patch
- (transparent, clear see through patch)
- Latex Free











Nicotine Patches Side Effects

- Patient complains of Vivid dreams, Insomnia or other sleeping
 problems How do you manage this side effect?
- <u>Patient complains of Heart palpitations</u> How do you manage this side effect?
- Patient complains of Chest Pain How do you manage this side effect?
- GI complaints nicotine has stimulant effect on bowels quitting smoking may cause constipation and too much nicotine may contribute to overactive bowels.
- Anxiety "feeling jittery" possibly nicotine excess dosing



NRT's are currently recommended as a safe intervention to the general population and higher-risk groups, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, and smokers with cardiovascular disease.

<u>Pregnant smokers</u> – should attempt medication free smoking cessation first. NRT's should not be used unless patient has attempted and failed at a medication free smoking cessation attempt.

<u>Cardiovascular diseases</u>—

NRT's are not a risk factor for acute myocardial events. NRT's should be used with caution among particular cardiovascular patient groups: those in the immediate (within 2 weeks) post-myocardial infarction period, those with serious arrhythmias or unstable angina pectoris.



Safety Warning Label for Smoking while wearing Nicotine Patch

Current Drug Facts Labeling	Proposed Drug Facts Labeling
Warnings:	
if you continue to smoke, chew tobacco, use snuff, or use [a different NRT product] or other nicotine containing products	None. The "Do not use" statement would be deleted.
Directions:	
stop smoking completely when you begin using [the NRT product]	begin using [the NRT product] on your quit day
it is important to complete treatment. Stop using [the NRT product] at the end of [a specified number of] weeks. If you still feel the need to use [the NRT product], talk to your doctor	it is important to complete treatment. If you feel you need to use [the NRT product] for a longer period to keep from smoking, talk to your health care provider



Localized skin reaction

What would you do for a patient presenting in your office with this problem shortly after starting on the patch?





This may be an allergic reaction or a contact dermatitis (irritation from any component of the patch or the occlusive effects of the patch, particularly in warmer temperatures)

Determine if patient has a known latex allergy or hx of rashes with dressings or Band-Aids. If so, then switch to **Nico-Derm CQ patches** which are Latex Free (transparent, clear, see-through patches).

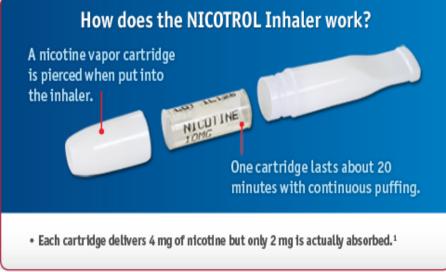
Patients may **rotate the patch at various sites** to avoid skin irritation, if that is an issue. May apply patch anywhere **below the collar, above the elbows and above the belt**





Inhaler





Nasal Spray





Nicotine Poisoning





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Varenicline





ADVANTAGES

- Oral formulation with twice-aday dosing
- Offers a new mechanism of action for persons who previously failed using other medications
- Early trials suggest this agent is superior to bupropion SR

NOTE: Patients have reported changes in behavior, agitation, depressed mood, suicidal thoughts or actions while taking or after stopping Varenicline.

DISADVANTAGES

- Common side effects:
 - Nausea (in up to 33% of clients)
 - Sleep disturbances (insomnia, abnormal dreams)
 - Constipation
 - Flatulence.
 - Vomiting







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Varenicline

CHANTIX 0.5 MG TABLET



Identification

This medicine is a white, oblong, film-coated tablet imprinted with "Pfizer" and "CHX 0.5".

Varenicline

CHANTIX 1 MG TABLET



Identification

This medicine is a light blue, oblong, film-coated tablet imprinted with "Pfizer" and "CHX 1.0".



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Bupropion SR Tablets

- Does not contain nicotine
- Tablet that is swallowed whole, and the medication is released over time
- Same medication as Wellbutrin, which is used to treat depression
- Sold with a prescription



Courtesy of the University of California, San Francisco









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Rare Side effects not specific to the First Line Smoking Cessation medications

- Be aware of rare severe side effects which <u>CAN</u> occur with these and any medications.
- Local and systemic allergic reactions: can vary in presentation and severity and can progress very rapidly from onset of initial symptoms.
- Be alert to observable signs and reported symptoms.



ALLERGIC REACTIONS



SEND TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM!!

Life Threatening Potential
Could result from ANY medica

Could result from <u>ANY</u> medication and all agents we will discuss today





- Rash
- Hives
- Itching
- Nausea
- Difficulty breathing
- Tightness in the chest
- Blurred vision

- Swelling of the mouth Face, lips, or tongue
- Fast or irregular heartbeat
- Severe or persistent dizziness or headache Swelling or persistent (more than 4 days) redness at the application site; vomiting; weakness.









Thank You!



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