

ADMINISTERING TRANSDERMAL MEDICATION



Transdermal Medication Systems

Route of administration utilizing a medication-impregnated patch applied to the skin:

Medication diffuses through skin layers into the systemic circulation, allowing slow absorption of medication over time.

Transdermal Patch Administration

Pre-Procedure:

1. Verify medication using seven rights of medication administration.
2. Perform hand hygiene and don gloves.
3. Locate previous patch, if present, and remove.
4. Select new application site and assess to ensure skin is intact.
5. Clean site with soap and water as needed.
6. Remove soiled gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Procedure:

7. Don clean gloves.
8. Peel open patch package with sticky side facing you.
9. Apply patch to prepared site.

Post-Procedure:

10. Label patch with date and time of administration and initials.
11. Dispose of removed patch in black box or per facility protocol.
12. Remove soiled gloves and perform hand hygiene.
13. Document date, time, and location of patch clearly in client chart.

Benefits of Transdermal Route

- Uniform release of medication avoids peaks, reducing risk of side effects and toxicity.
- Less invasive than parenteral route
- Alternative when parenteral access is limited in 'hard-stick' clients and those with needle phobia
- Reduced dosing frequency can improve compliance.
- Alternative to PO in clients who are unconscious or vomiting

CLINICAL TIPS:

Do not apply transdermal patch to non-intact skin, unless specifically ordered by provider.



Medication



Specialty gloves

1 Prevention of medication errors	1. Right medication	5. Right route
	2. Right documentation	6. Right dose
	3. Right indication	7. Right client
	4. Right time	
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