

## 1286 varenicline

**Increase:** vardenafil level—grapefruit juice; avoid concurrent use

### Drug/Lab Test

**Increase:** CK

## NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

### Assess:

- Erectile dysfunction and cause before treatment

- **Any severe loss of vision while taking this or similar products; products should not be used**

- **Use of organic nitrates, which should not be used with this product**

- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** not used in women

### Teach patient/family:

- That product does not protect against STDs, including HIV

- That product absorption is reduced with high-fat meal

- **That product should not be used with nitrates in any form; to inform physician of all medications being taken**

- That product has no effect in the absence of sexual stimulation; that patient should seek immediate medical attention if erections last >4 hr

- **To notify prescriber immediately and stop taking product if vision loss occurs**

- To take 1 hr before sexual activity and only once per day

- To notify prescriber of all OTC, prescription, and herbal products taken

### varenicline (Rx)

(var-e-nir'kleen)

Champix , Chantix

*Func. class.:* Smoking cessation agent

*Chem. class.:* Nicotine receptor agonist

**ACTION:** Partial agonist for nicotine receptors; partially activates receptors to help curb cravings; occupies receptors to prevent nicotine binding

**USES:** Adjunct to psychosocial interventions for tobacco cessation (smoking)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypersensitivity, eating disorders

**Precautions:** Pregnancy, breastfeeding, children <18 yr, geriatric patients, renal disease, recent MI, angioedema, bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, suicidal ideation

## DOSAGE AND ROUTES

- **Adult: PO** therapy should begin 1 wk before smoking stop date (i.e., take product plus tobacco for 7 days); titrate for 1 wk; days 1 through 3, 0.5 mg/day; days 4 through 7, 0.5 mg bid; day 8 through end of treatment, 1 mg bid; treatment is for 12 wk and may be repeated for another 12 wk

### Renal dose

- **Adult: PO** CCr ≤50 mL/min, titrate to max 0.5 mg bid

**Available forms:** Tabs 0.5, 1 mg

### Administer:

- Do not break, crush, or chew tabs
- Increased fluids, bulk in diet if constipation occurs
- After eating with a full glass of water
- Sugarless gum, hard candy, frequent sips of water for dry mouth

## SIDE EFFECTS

**CNS:** Headache, agitation, dizziness, insomnia, abnormal dreams, fatigue, malaise, behavioral changes, depression, **homicidal ideation, suicidal ideation**, amnesia, hallucinations, hostility, mania, psychosis, tremors, **seizures, stroke**

**CV:** Dysrhythmias, **MI**

**EENT:** *Blurred vision*

**GI:** *Nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, increased/decreased appetite, constipation*, flatulence, GERD, diarrhea, gingivitis, dyspepsia, enterocolitis

**GU:** Erectile dysfunction, urinary frequency, menstrual irregularities

**INTEG:** Rash, pruritus, **angioedema, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, flushing, dermatitis**

**MS:** **Back pain, myalgia, arthralgia**

**HEMA:** Anemia