



FIGURE 10-2: Applying a transdermal patch. Remove the sticky backing on the transdermal patch, and apply it to an appropriate location on the body.

Procedure Box 10-1 Transdermal Patch Administration

Safety Precautions: Avoid touching medication to bare skin. Care should be taken when disposing of an old patch or wrapping of a current patch to avoid exposure of housekeepers, children, or animals to medication.

Supplies: Order, patch, gloves, teaching materials

Steps:

1. Observe the seven “rights” of medication administration.
2. Read the order, and compare it with the label on the medication container. Check the expiration date.
3. Wash hands.
4. Compare the medication order with the container a second time.
5. Identify the patient, and explain what you will be doing.
6. Compare the order and the container a third time.
7. Put on gloves.
8. Inspect the application site, and make sure that it is clean, dry, and free of lesions.
9. Carefully remove the adhesive backing from the patch.
10. Place the patch on the selected site, and make sure that all edges of the adhesive adhere securely to skin.
11. Remove gloves and wash hands.
12. Document medication dosage, location, and the patient’s response.

Example:

02/20/2013 6:45 p.m.: fentanyl 25 mcg/hr patch placed to left upper quadrant of abdomen. Patient advised to be cautious with change of positions to avoid falls. Pt. states understanding of side effects to report and activities to avoid. CJ Watkins RN, MSN

There are still a few patches that you may have to prepare on your own. The most common patch you will need to make is nitroglycerin, although the use of these patches has declined in favor of commercially prepared patches. To make a transdermal patch, take an empty patch that marks the area of measurements on the application area. The medication order will be for centimeters or inches. Squeeze the tube of medication to place a specified measure on the ruled area. The more slowly you squeeze and move the tube, the thicker the line of medication will be. Therefore, the amount given is variable.



CRITICAL THINKING

What would be the effect of cutting a transdermal patch? Is it advisable?