

Tadalafil, Sildenafil and Verdanafil Troches

WHAT IS A TROCHE?*

A troche is a lozenge designed to deliver medications directly to the <u>mucus</u> membranes of the mouth by dissolving slowly when placed between the tongue and gums. A number of medications, including over-the-counter drugs, can be delivered this way. While placed in the mouth, these lozenges are not designed to be swallowed. They may be flavored to make taking the medication more pleasant.

The term for this form of medication delivery is derived from the Greek word for "wheel," and troches are traditionally round in shape. The size of the medication can vary, depending on what is being delivered. This form of delivery is used when medications cannot be ingested because the digestive juices will damage or compromise the medication.

As the troche breaks down, the drug seeps through the porous mucus membranes in the mouth and rapidly enters the bloodstream. This allows for extremely rapid delivery of medications. The blood levels of the drug will rise rapidly and then stabilize. Depending on the medication, doses can be repeated at varying levels to keep the level as stable as possible.

When taking a troche, patients are generally advised to tuck the medication under the tongue or between the cheek and gums to allow it to dissolve slowly. It is important to avoid chewing the lozenge and to wait to eat or drink until it has completely dissolved, to keep the medication out of the digestive tract. Since timing doses carefully is often needed to keep levels of medication in the blood stable, patients should set up a schedule that will be easy to adhere to in order to avoid missing doses or taking them late.

*Pharmacies Typically Prepare Troches for Erectile Dysfunction and Weight Loss Compounded Medications