

Narcotic Opiate Analgesics

Information Intended for Parents

Recommendations

- Make sure your child is under the supervision of an adult for at least the first 24 hours.
- Be sure to inform the doctor or pharmacist about all the medications that your child is taking as to avoid mistakes and harmful drug interactions.
- Contact Info-Santé for any questions you may have.

Références

Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (Mars 2005). *Avis sur la surveillance clinique des clients qui reçoivent des médicaments ayant un effet dépressif sur le système nerveux central: Qu'en est-il de la clientèle ambulatoire?*

Lacroix J, Gauthier M, Hubert P, Leclerc F, Gaudreault P. (2007).
Urgences et soins intensifs pédiatriques: Analgésie, sédation et curarisation. P.63-71.

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The doctor has prescribed pain medication for your child. This document is intended to compliment the information you received from health care professionals during your visit to the hospital.



What are narcotic analgesics?

Narcotic analgesics are drugs that modify the nervous system's perception of pain. Their effect is pain relief.

How should this medication be used?

- Use this medication exactly as directed by the doctor. Never increase the dosage. If the pain persists despite the regular taking of the medication, consult your doctor or go to the hospital.
- Do not give your child any alcoholic beverages to drink while on the medication.
- Make sure your child swallows the tablets whole. Unless directed otherwise by the doctor or pharmacist, do not break, crush or encourage your child to chew the tablets because this may modify the medication's effect.
- Give your child the medication with food, if your child experiences any stomach upsets.

What are the side effects?

Most people experience little to no undesirable side effects; however some of the following may appear:

- Drowsiness (the need to sleep at hours when your child should be awake), which should be evaluated based on your child's sleeping patterns;
- Dizziness;
- Agitation;
- Confusion;
- Nausea and vomiting;
- Constipation.



What to do when side effects manifest?

If your child experiences drowsiness:

- Keep your child calm. Encourage your child to do relaxing activities at home (reading, watching television) to minimize the onset of side effects.
- Prohibit your child from driving, if your child is of driving age.

If your child experiences dizziness:

- Ask your child to stand up and walk around slowly.

If your child experiences constipation:

- Keep your child hydrated by giving them plenty of fluids or popsicles.

What to do when a dose has been missed?

Administer the medication as soon as possible. Disregard having missed the previous dose, if it is already time for the next dose. Do not double the dosage. Simply return to the regular taking of the medication from that point on.

How to monitor your child at home?

- Be sure to use the medication exactly as directed.
- Watch for any side effects.
- Keep in mind that it is only natural that your child will feel drowsy in the first 24 hours after starting the medication. Waking your child each time they fall asleep is not necessary. Gently tap your child every 4 hours to physically stimulate them so that they can return to bed without fully waking up. Fully wake your child up if your child does not move.
- Make sure the medication is kept in a safe place, away from reach of other children.

When to see the doctor?

Contact Info-Santé, consult your doctor or go to the hospital, if your child is exhibiting any of the following side effects: itching, hives or rash, difficulty waking up, blurred vision, difficulty urinating, confusion, hallucination and/or difficulty breathing.