

Morphine for pain relief in children

Information for parents and carers



Oral morphine (taken by mouth) is used to reduce pain which cannot be controlled by paracetamol and/or ibuprofen alone. This might be pain following an injury or after an operation. It comes as a liquid for your child to swallow.

Name of the medicine

Morphine liquid (Oramorph, 10mg in 5ml)

Why is this medicine important for my child?

Morphine will help to control your child's pain.

When should I give my child morphine?

You should give morphine every 4-6 hours if your child's pain is not controlled by giving regular paracetamol and/or ibuprofen.

Writing down the times that you give each dose of morphine can be helpful, so that you know when the next dose is due.

How much should I give?

Before you leave hospital, your child's doctor will work out the amount of medicine (the dose) that is right for your child. This will be clearly written on the medicine label.

It is very important that you follow these instructions carefully.

How should I give the correct amount?

Measure out the right amount using the oral syringe or the medicine spoon provided.

How long will it take for the morphine to start working?

Your child should start to feel less pain within an hour of taking the first dose of morphine.

If you are not sure the medicine is working, contact your doctor.

Do not give extra doses.

If you are worried that your child may have had too much morphine, seek medical advice from your GP or local Accident and Emergency department.

If your child has any of the following problems call 999 immediately:

- They are unusually sleepy.
- They are finding it difficult to breathe or they are breathing more slowly or noisily than usual.
- They are feeling faint or confused.

Other side effects I need to know about

Some children get constipation when taking morphine. This can be minimised by giving your child plenty of water to drink.

Where should I keep this medicine?

Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge. Make sure that it is out of the sight and reach of children.

Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Any unused medicine should be returned to your local pharmacy or chemist, who can dispose of it safely.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

If your child is sick (vomits) after taking a dose, you should wait at least 4 hours before giving another dose.

Oral morphine is only used for pain relief for a short period of time; therefore it is very unlikely that your child will become dependent on it.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

You can also get useful information from NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) or by calling 111 from any landline or mobile phone (free of charge).

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

Authors: Rhoda Welsh, David Mason & Heather Willson
May 2016
Review: May 2019
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Oxford OX3 9DU
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information

