

Morphine for Children in Pain



Name:

Who to contact and how:

Notes:

Diana, Princess of Wales
Hospital
Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Scunthorpe General
Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Goole & District
Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX

03033 306999

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Information for patients

Introduction

This leaflet is about the use of Morphine 10mg / 5ml oral solution prescribed for your child to reduce severe.

This leaflet has been written specifically about the use of this medicine for children. The information in this leaflet may differ to that provided by the manufacturer. Please read the leaflet carefully. Keep this leaflet somewhere safe as you may need to read it again.

Name of the drug: Morphine

Common brand name: Oramorph

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

Morphine will help to control your child's pain.

Give your child a dose of Morphine when your child complains of pain and other painkillers such as Paracetamol and Ibuprofen have not worked.

If you give your child morphine continue to give the other painkillers prescribed by your doctor.

The label on medicine bottle will tell you how often to give morphine. If you are not sure, check with either a pharmacist, nurse or doctor first.

Write down the time that you give each dose, to help you remember.

How much should I give?

Your doctor will work out the amount of morphine (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH TO GIVE.

How should I give it?

Start with the lowest dose given on the label. If this does not work you can give the bigger dose stated on the label when the next dose is due. Do not give a dose if your child is sleepy.

Liquid Medicine: Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe or medicine spoon. You can get these from your ward nurse or pharmacist. Do not use kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the correct amount.

When should the medicine start working?

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

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

Children may be sick or feel sick after taking morphine.

Information for patients

If your child is sick after taking a dose, do not repeat this dose. Wait until the next planned dose.

What if I forget a dose?

Don't worry if you forget a dose, as morphine stays in the body for a while and will continue to work.

Only give a dose of morphine if your child is in pain and never give a dose more often than every **four hours**.

What if I give too much?

- ⚠ It may be dangerous to give your child too much morphine. If you think you may have given your child too much morphine, contact your doctor or pharmacist straight away.
- ⚠ If your child seems very sleepy, or if they have problems with their breathing, or stop breathing, your child may have had too much morphine. Phone for an ambulance straight away. Take the medicine container or pack with you, even if it is empty. This will be useful to the doctor.

Are there any side effects?

- ⚠ We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don't want (side-effects).
- ⚠ Your child is likely to feel sick or be sick (vomit) for the first few days of taking morphine. Your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help with this.
- ⚠ Most children get constipation (have difficulty doing a poo) when taking morphine. You can help by encouraging them to drink plenty of fluid. Your doctor will probably suggest that your child also takes laxatives – medicines that will help them go to the toilet. It is important that your child doesn't strain on the toilet.
- ⚠ Your child may get headaches, have a dry mouth or sweat, and their skin may flush (go red). They may have changes in mood and sleep disturbances. They may feel dizzy, and they may feel light-headed when they stand up.
- ⚠ Your child may find it difficult to pass urine (do a wee). Contact your doctor if this happens.

Risks

- ⚠ **If your child seems very sleepy, has difficulty breathing or stops breathing phone for an ambulance (dial 999) straight away.**

Information for patients

Can other medicines be given at the same time as morphine?

- ⚠ Some painkillers and cough medicines contain codeine or dihydrocodeine (you can find this information on the label) **do not** give these your child under any circumstances.
- ⚠ Morphine shouldn't be taken with some common drugs that you get on prescription. It is important to tell your doctor and pharmacist that your child is taking morphine.

You can give your child medicine that contains Paracetamol or Ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.

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

Alternatives

There are other medicines used to control pain in children including Paracetamol and Ibuprofen. Your doctor will only use Morphine if these first line drugs are not able to control your child's pain.

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

You may have heard that some people become addicted to morphine or dependent on it. This is unlikely to happen when morphine is given to children in pain.

Morphine is often given to children and adults with life threatening or terminal illnesses. Morphine does not shorten the person's life.

An antidote can be given to someone who has had too much morphine. This has to be done in hospital.

General Advice this Medicine:

- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your doctor. Do not give extra doses of morphine.
- Only give morphine to the child prescribed. Never give it to anyone else, even if their conditions appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
- ⚠ If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, **contact your doctor straight away.**
- Write down the times that you give morphine, to help you remember
- Make sure that the medicine is not older than the 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of

Where should I keep the medicine?

Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.

Information for patients

Make sure that your children cannot see or reach it.
Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Reference Section

SPC www.medicines.org.uk/morphine
oral solution 10mg / 5ml

BNF for children 2015-2016.

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/morphine

Contact Details for Further Information

If you would like more information about morphine and other drugs or methods of pain relief please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

Date of Issue: Mar 2019

Review Period: Mar 2022

Author: Advanced Clinical Pharmacist (Women & Children's Services)

IFP-0903 v1.3

© NLGFT 2019

