



Eurobodalla Palliative Care Service

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Eurobodalla Palliative Care Service

Morphine



Tel: 1300 795 440

Morphine

Frequently asked questions

Q. Where does morphine come from?

A. Morphine is a natural product derived from opium. Opium is obtained from specially grown poppy plants. The use of morphine for the relief of pain has been well known for centuries. Today, morphine is available in modern medications after having been researched and designed for maximum effectiveness and ease of pain.

Q. Isn't morphine only given as a last resort?

A. Certainly not! In fact, morphine is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the drug of choice to assist in the relief of certain types of severe pain. It is either used alone or in combination with other drugs as part of a pain management regime. Having the ability to control your pain will allow you to sleep better. You may also find you can move about more and enjoy activities with your family and friends again.

may have found it difficult to sleep and so once your pain is controlled and you feel more comfortable, you may well find you sleep more for a few days while you catch up on lost sleep. If the drowsiness lasts more than a few days or is concerning you, discuss it with your doctor. The correct dose of morphine should not cause undue sedation for more than a few days.

Q. Should I continue to drive whilst taking morphine?

A. As is the case with a number of other medications, you should not drive or operate machinery whilst taking morphine because your reactions may be slower and you may feel sleepy. Talk to your doctor if this is a concern for you.

Q. Can I take another medication whilst taking morphine?

A. You should tell your doctor about any other medications you are taking and he/she will ensure that these are all appropriate. Your doctor may also advise you not to drink alcohol or take sedatives when using morphine as these drugs will increase the sedative effects of morphine. Talk to your doctor if you have concerns about these effects.

Q. Will taking morphine make me feel nause-

ated?

A. Some people find that when they first take morphine it upsets their stomach. If you still feel nauseated after a few days tell your doctor so they can provide you with medication to relieve the nausea.

Q. Will I become confused if I take morphine?

A. If you suffer from mental confusion this may mean that the amount of pain medication you are taking needs adjusting. You should tell your doctor if you experience any problems with confusion so that they can make any necessary adjustments to your therapy.

Q. How much morphine will I need to take?

A. The amount of morphine (dose) required is different for each individual. Your doctor will find the right level of morphine to control your pain whilst keeping side effects to a minimum.

Q. What will I do if the pain comes back?

A. Your doctor will explain what you should do if you get pain while taking morphine. Your visiting nurse will also be able to discuss pain control with you. If these measures are not enough then you must contact your doctor immediately. You should not change the dose of morphine without discussing it with your doctor.

Q. Will people think of me as a nuisance if I complain about the pain?