



Paediatric information – for parents

Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution FAQs

This leaflet answers frequently asked questions for patients or parents of children and young people who are given Morphine to manage their pain after cross-linking/laser procedures. This medication is sometimes also called Oramorph.[®]

If you still have any questions after reading this leaflet, please refer to the leaflet included with the medicine for further information, or **contact the pharmacy department on 020 7566 2362.**

What is Morphine?

Morphine is a strong painkiller which works well on different types of moderate to severe pain. It belongs to a group of painkillers called opioids and is commonly used to manage pain after cross-linking/laser procedures in children.

How do you take Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution?

This medicine is taken by mouth only. Use the oral syringe provided to accurately measure the prescribed dose. Draw the liquid into the syringe until it is level with the mark which shows the required dose. The marks are in millilitres, ml, of liquid. This

medicine should be taken **every six hours when required.**

Ensure that you know how many ml of the solution is needed for each dose. If unsure, then speak to your doctor or pharmacist. Do not let your child drink directly from the bottle as this may result in taking the incorrect dose. Do not give them more than the prescribed amount.

What can I expect after giving this medicine to my child?

Pain relief should come into effect after 20-30 minutes and should last up to five hours on average. This may vary between different individuals.

What are the side effects?

As with all medicines, Morphine can cause side effects, although not everyone will experience them.

The most common side effects are feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting), constipation and feeling drowsy. Other side effects include dry mouth and small pupils (black circles in the middle of the eyes).

Serious side effects include difficulty breathing or swallowing and the



possibility of having an allergic reaction. The symptoms of this might include swelling of the mouth and face, difficulty breathing, dizziness and skin reactions such as a rash and itching. If your child/young person experiences any of these then stop using this medicine immediately and seek medical attention - go to your local A&E.

To avoid such complications, an initial 'supervised' dose is given whilst they are still within the hospital premises.

What if my child has taken more Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution than they should have (overdose)?

In this situation, you must seek medical attention immediately - go to a hospital. If someone takes more Morphine Sulfate than they should, they may experience trouble breathing and a drop in blood pressure.

Taking too much may result in serious consequences including unconsciousness and even death.

To minimise the possibility of this occurring we strictly limit the total quantity that we give out and instruct families to use the medicine exactly as prescribed.

Is there a risk my child may get addicted to Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution?

It is possible to become addicted to this medicine, but this is extremely unlikely when taken for only a short duration. Your pharmacist will have outlined for

how many days to take this medicine and explained when it is appropriate to stop.

Will this medicine affect my child's regular activities?

Your child should be able to continue with your daily activities. However, be aware that Morphine may cause drowsiness or slow their reactions. This is especially likely when taking morphine for the first time.

How do I store Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution?

Store at room temperature below 25°C. Store in the container provided to protect from light. Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct Telephone Helpline
Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm
Saturday, 9am-5pm
Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325
Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net





Opening hours: Monday to Friday, except bank holidays
Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right. For more information about your rights and responsibilities, please visit the Moorfields website and search 'Referrals to treatment (RTT)'. To learn more about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

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