



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Facts on

ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION

5mg/5mls and 50mg/5mls

" Medicine for Moderate to severe pain relief"

This leaflet has been developed to provide information on Oral Liquid Morphine Solution for both patients and Health workers on appropriate ways of handling it.

1. INTRODUCTION

Patients with long term illnesses suffer a lot of pain that requires medicine to give them pain control and a good quality of life. Oral liquid morphine solution is one of the medicines that is provided for this purpose.

Oral morphine is a controlled medicine and its prescription and administration should be managed professionally by only medical doctors and qualified palliative care nurses and clinical officers.

2. WHAT IS ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Oral liquid morphine solution is a type of medicine belonging to the class of medicines known as narcotics.

This medicine is only prescribed by only medical doctors and qualified palliative care nurses and clinical officers to relieve moderate to severe pain in conditions like cancer, HIV/AIDS, Sickle Cell Disease and or painful terminal disease.

Oral liquid morphine solution can be used for chronic non cancer pain if the patient is not responding to any other analgesia according to the WHO analgesic step ladder.

3. HOW TO TAKE ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION;

This particular medicine is taken through the mouth. It is not to be administered through injections. The dose of Oral liquid morphine solution that the health worker prescribes will depend on the individual patient characteristics and level of pain.

Oral liquid morphine solution can be taken either with or without food. However, patients using it are encouraged to drink a lot of fluid.

In case a patient misses a dose, they shouldn't worry but take it as soon as they remember and take the next dose as usual when it's due. Patients should not take a double dose to make up for the missed dose. Always follow the instructions given by the Health worker.

4. DOES ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE KILL PATIENTS?

No, this medicine is prescribed to relieve patients of their moderate to severe pain but not to hasten or cause death.

5. WHAT ARE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION?

The following are some of the side effects that are known to be associated with this medicine

Common Side effects

- ☒ Constipation
- ☒ dry mouth
- ☒ Loss of appetite
- ☒ Nausea and vomiting

- ☒ Drowsiness
- ☒ Rash or itching
- ☒ Sweating

Rare side effects

- ☒ Difficulty passing urine
- ☒ Low blood pressure
- ☒ Headache
- ☒ Breathing difficulties or respiratory depression
- ☒ Seeing or hearing things that are not really there (hallucinations).
- ☒ Awareness of your heartbeat (palpitations).

6. HOW CAN ONE ACCESS ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION?

- ☒ Oral liquid morphine solution can be found at private and public health facilities where there are trained Palliative care health workers.
Such health facilities are accredited by the Ministry of Health.

7. HOW MUCH DOES ONE NEED TO PAY TO GET ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION?

Oral morphine solution is available free of charge at accredited health facility.

8. HOW SHOULD ONE STORE THIS MEDICINE?

- ☒ Store in a dry place at room temperature (below 30°C) away from direct sunlight.
- ☒ Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

9. WHAT SHOULD ONE DO INCASE THEY TAKE MORE ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION THAN THEY SHOULD OR AN OVERDOSE?

Incase a one takes more oral liquid morphine than they have been told, they should talk to their doctor immediately or report to the nearest hospital with the medicine bottle from which they have been taking.

They may present with slowed breathing, a drop in their blood pressure and constriction of the pupil in the eye and in severe cases, they may be unconscious.

10. WHAT SHOULD ONE DO INCASE YOU NEED TO STOP TAKING ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION?

Do not stop suddenly but rather Talk to your medical doctor or qualified palliative care nurse or clinical officer who will then reduce your dose slowly until it is completely stopped.

11. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING ORAL LIQUID MORPHINE SOLUTION?

- ☒ It is easy to carry and use at home
- ☒ It helps relieve moderate to severe pain.

12. PRESENTATION

Oral liquid morphine solution 5mg/5ml is a green solution packaged in amber (brown) colored plastic bottle as 250ml or 500ml with a white cap while 50mg/5ml is a red solution packaged in amber (brown) colored plastic bottles with a red cap as 250ml. The 5mg/5ml green solution is usually prescribed at the beginning and the dose the health worker prescribes is dependent on the severity of pain and age of the patient. The 50mg/5ml red solution might be prescribed for convenience if stronger or higher doses are required /needed.

KEY MESSAGES

- ☑ Oral liquid morphine solution help to control moderate to severe pain of patients.
- ☑ This medicine can only be prescribed by only medical doctors and qualified palliative care nurses and clinical officers.
- ☑ The medicine is available at only accredited health facilities.
- ☑ This medicine when used incorrectly can be addictive so its administration has to be managed professionally and the patient has to always consult their health worker for a dose increase if the dose, they have been prescribed is not controlling their pain.
- ☑ Oral morphine solution must be taken by the patient for whom it has been prescribed for and must never be shared with anyone else because it could be harmful.
- ☑ Diversion of oral morphine solution is prohibited and punishable by law.

Developed by PCAU with support from OSIEA & TREAT THE PAIN | **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Palliative Care Association of Uganda, Block 383, Plot 8804 Kitende, Entebbe Road

P. O. Box 34985, Kampala, Uganda

Email: pcau.admin@pcau.org.ug

Website: www.pcauganda.org

Facebook: Palliative Care Association of Uganda

Twitter: PCAUganda

Whatsapp: +256 772 535 341

