


Section: Drug Reference  
Subject: MORPHINE SULFATE  
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## Morphine Sulfate

1. CLASSIFICATION
  - a. Narcotic
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
  - a. Natural opium alkaloid
  - b. Promotes analgesia, euphoria
  - c. Increases peripheral venous capacitance and decreases venous return ("chemical phlebotomy") through the release of histamine
  - d. Depresses responsiveness of alpha adrenergic receptors (producing peripheral vasodilation) and baroreceptor inhibition
  - e. Increases both preload and afterload, thus potential to decrease  $MvO_2$
3. INDICATIONS
  - a. Pain management
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
  - a. Hypovolemia
  - b. Hypotension
  - c. Head injury
  - d. Abdominal pain
5. PRECAUTIONS
  - a. Use with caution in the elderly, those with asthma, & those susceptible to CNS depression.
  - b. Use with caution in right ventricular MI.
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
  - a. Respiratory depression
  - b. Hypotension (may be orthostatic)
  - c. Tachycardia, Bradycardia, or palpitations
  - d. Syncope
  - e. Bronchospasm
  - f. Dry mouth
  - g. Pupil constriction
  - h. Seizures
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
  - a. Onset: 5 minutes
  - b. Duration: 4 – 5 hours
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
  - a. Effects reversed with naloxone