

Morphine applied to the skin (topical) – medicine for pain relief

Why has my child been prescribed morphine for topical use?

Topical morphine (applied to the skin) can be used to treat painful wounds and skin conditions. There is research that suggests morphine applied directly to the painful area has a pain-relieving effect.

Topical morphine mixture can be used at the same time as oral morphine pain relief medicines.

The advantage of topical morphine mixture is that your child will experience fewer side effects than if they are taking morphine medicine by mouth, for a painful wound or skin condition. Topical morphine will be prescribed when:

- pain from a wound or skin condition is not relieved by oral morphine and morphine-like pain medicines alone
- pain from a wound or skin condition is not relieved by other topical wound-based medicines being applied.

How does topical morphine work?

Topical morphine mixture works on nerves in the skin to reduce the feeling of pain.

How is topical morphine used?

Topical morphine mixture is made using morphine sulfate injection liquid mixed with a gel-based product, for example, Intrasisite® Gel 8gm, Granugel® 15g or Instillagel® 1-6ml. It is then applied to the wound or skin for local pain relief. The morphine mixture should be made fresh before each use. Topical morphine mixture may be applied to the area of skin affected up to four times a day. If your child needs wound dressings, usage may be reduced to once a day.

What special precautions should I follow?

Gloves should be worn when you are applying topical morphine mixture to your child's skin.



Are there any side effects of topical morphine?

Possible side effects include itching and burning of the skin. If your child experiences these symptoms, please inform the Children and Young Peoples' Outreach and Symptom Care Specialist team (CYPOONS).

Information for parents on mixing morphine medicine topical morphine prescription

As a parent/carer, we have given you written information and verbal instruction to support the prescription in mixing and administration of topical morphine

Preparation

Topical morphine mixture is made using morphine sulfate injection (10mg/ml).....mixed with(such as Intrasisite® Gel15g, Granugel® 15g, Instillagel®1-6ml).

Topical morphine mixture is made up fresh before each use. This preparation should be supported by your local community nursing team.

If a smell exists alongside the pain, mixing morphine sulfate injection with Metrogel® 40g will be prescribed; a wound swab to check for infection should be carried out.

Topical morphine mixture may be applied to an area of painful skin and/or wound up to four times a day using a gloved finger after cleaning the skin/wound. A non-stick dressing may be needed.

Symptom advice contact details:

Please contact the Children and Young Peoples' Outreach and Symptom Care team (CYPOONS) if you have any questions.

CYPOONS Office: 020 8661 3625
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Outside of these hours, please call:

Patient Advice by Telephone for Care at Home, Hospice or Hospital (PATCH) service via The Royal Marsden switchboard: 020 8642 6011

