

NARCOTIC ANALGESICS

EXAMPLES:

- codeine
- fentanyl
- hydrocodone (Lortab)
- meperidine hydrochloride (Demerol)
- methadone hydrochloride
- morphine sulfate
- nalbuphine hydrochloride (Nubain)
- oxycodone hydrochloride (OxyContin)
- paregoric
- percocet
- tylenol with codeine

INDICATIONS:

- pain relief
- methadone is used for heroin withdrawal and maintenance

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

- narcotic analgesics attach to specific receptors in the CNS resulting in various CNS effects
- mechanism involves decreased permeability of the cell membrane to sodium, which results in diminished transmission of pain impulses

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- asthma
- emphysema
- severe obesity
- epilepsy
- delirium tremens
- diabetic ketoacidosis
- kyphoscoliosis

PRECAUTIONS:

- head injury (morphine elevates ICP and masks pupillary response)
- elderly
- acute alcohol intoxication
- narcotics cross the placental barrier and depress respiration of the fetus or newborn

SIDE EFFECTS:

- respiratory depression and apnea
- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- sedation
- headache

