

Morphine (Avinza[®], Kadian[®], MS Contin[®], MS-IR[®], Oramorph SR[®], Roxanol[®], RMS[™])

Morphine is a medicine used to treat moderate to severe pain. There are many different types of morphine. Each form of morphine is available by a brand name and a generic name (Avinza[®] and Kadian[®] are brand names only). It is important that you know the name of the medicine you are taking.

You may receive morphine by:

■ **capsule:**

- Avinza[®] is an extended release form taken 1 time a day.
- Kadian[®] is an extended release form taken 1 or 2 times a day.

■ **tablet:**

- MS Contin[®] and Oramorph SR[®] are both extended release forms taken 2 to 3 times a day.
- MS-IR[™] is an immediate release form taken every 3 to 4 hours as needed for pain relief.

■ **liquid:**

- Roxanol[™] is an immediate release form taken every 3 to 4 hours as needed for pain relief.

■ **suppository:**

- RMS[®] is inserted into the rectum every 3 to 4 hours as needed for pain relief.

How Is It Given?

- tablet, capsule or liquid by mouth
- suppository inserted into the rectum

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- constipation
- nausea (feel like throwing up) and vomiting (throwing up)
- dry mouth
- drowsiness
- lightheadedness
- fatigue and weakness
- exaggerated feeling of well-being (euphoria)
- itching
- rash
- headache

Less common:

- slowed breathing
- confusion
- decreased urination
- lowered blood pressure (known as hypotension)

Special Notes

- Avinza and Kadian: Do not crush, chew or dissolve the beads inside the capsule. This will destroy the time-release coating. As a result, you could get too much medicine at once.
- MS Contin and Oramorph SR: Do not cut, crush or chew the tablets. This will destroy the time-release coating. As a result, you could get too much medicine at once.
- All morphine forms:
 - Do not drink **any** alcohol while taking this medicine.
 - Do not drive or perform any other activities that require alertness until you know how the medicine will affect you. If you are having excessive sleepiness, talk with your doctor.
 - Be careful when you stand up or climb stairs, because the medicine may cause dizziness, lightheadedness or both.
 - Many side effects like drowsiness and nausea will improve as your body adjusts to taking morphine.
 - This medicine **will** cause constipation. To help reduce constipation, drink plenty of fluids, eat foods high in fiber and get exercise. You may also take a stimulant laxative (such as Senokot-S®) to prevent constipation. Stimulant laxatives are the most effective to prevent constipation.

- Talk with your doctor before you take other medicines that may cause drowsiness like antihistamines, muscle relaxers or sleep aids.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. But if you realize you missed a dose and it's close to your next scheduled dose, wait until the next dose. Do not double up on doses or take extra doses.
- Tell your doctor if you are or intend to become pregnant. Also, tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.
- It is important to keep this medicine out of reach of children and pets.
- Store this medicine away from heat and moisture. (Do not keep it in the kitchen or bathroom.)

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- signs of an allergic reaction: trouble breathing, hives, rash, swelling
- chest pain
- slow or fast heartbeat
- feeling very dizzy
- feeling very tired (fatigued)
- severe constipation
- fainting
- changes in your ability to think clearly and appropriately
- swelling of your arms or legs or unusual weight gain
- pain when you urinate
- extreme pain that will not go away.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.