

## PALLIATIVE CARE TIPS

### Issue # 20 Commonly Administered Sub-Cutaneous Medications in Palliative Care

(Collect them all)

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| Generic Name & Available Strengths   | Trade Name        | Comments  |
|--|-------------------|---|
| <b>Opioids</b>   |                   |   |
| FENTANYL CITRATE<br>50 mcg/mL  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continuous infusion – titrate</li> <li>+/- intermittent injection for BTP</li> <li>7-day expiry for diluted solutions protected from light</li> </ul>  |
| HYDROMORPHONE HCl<br>HP – 10 mg/ml<br>HP Plus – 20 mg/ml<br>XP – 50 mg/ml + sterile powder | Dilaudid          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intermittent injection +/- continuous infusions</li> <li>can be irritating with ↑ concentration &amp; ↑ volume of injection</li> <li>30-day expiry for diluted solutions</li> </ul>  |
| MORPHINE SO4<br>2, 10, 15 & 50 mg/mL   |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intermittent injection +/- continuous infusion</li> <li>30-day expiry when diluted</li> </ul>  |
| OXYCODONE HCl  |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not commercially available in Canada</li> <li>intermittent injection +/- continuous infusion</li> <li>conc. &gt; 50 mg/mL are irritating (irritation ↑ with ↑ volume &amp; conc.)</li> <li>30-day expiry when diluted</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sedatives</b>   |                   |   |
| HALOPERIDOL<br>5 mg/mL   | Haldol            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do <b>NOT</b> dilute with normal saline</li> </ul>   |
| LORAZEPAM<br>4 mg/mL   | Ativan            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>refrigerate ampoules</li> </ul>  |
| LOXAPINE<br>50 mg/mL   | Loxapac           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if administering small volumes: dilute further with sterile water for injection or use a dedicated primed butterfly site</li> </ul>  |
| METHOTRIMEPRAZINE<br>25 mg/mL  | Nozinan           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>burns – administer slowly</li> </ul>   |
| MIDAZOLAM<br>5 mg/mL   | Versed            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prn +/- continuous infusion – titrate</li> <li>14-day expiry for diluted solutions</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Anti-Nauseants (See also Miscellaneous &amp; Sedatives sections)</b>                    |                   |   |
| DIMENHYDRINATE<br>50 mg/mL   | Gravol            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>irritating – give slowly</li> </ul>  |
| METOCLOPRAMIDE<br>5 mg/mL  | Maxeran<br>Reglan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intermittent +/- continuous infusion</li> <li>irritating for some patients</li> <li>administer slowly &amp; rotate sites</li> <li>48-hour expiry for diluted solutions</li> </ul>  |
| ONDANSETRON<br>2 mg/mL   | Zofran            |   |
| PROCHLORPERAZINE<br>5 mg/mL  | Stemetil          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>irritating</li> </ul>  |

| Generic Name & Available Strengths                              | Trade Name           | Comments  |
|---|----------------------|---|
| <b>GI Medications</b>   |                      |   |
| FAMOTIDINE<br>10 mg/mL  | Pepcid               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• intermittent</li> <li>• refrigerate ampoules</li> </ul>  |
| HYOSCINE BUTYLBROMIDE<br>20 mg/mL                               | Buscopan             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• intermittent +/- continuous infusion</li> </ul>  |
| OCTREOTIDE<br>(SOMATOSTATIN ANALOGUE)<br>100, 200, & 500 mcg/mL | Sandostatin          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refrigerate ampoules</li> <li>• rotate sites to minimize pain</li> </ul>   |
| RANITIDINE<br>25 mg/mL  | Zantac               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• intermittent</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>  |                      |   |
| BENZTROPINE<br>1 mg/mL  | Cogentin             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• intermittent</li> </ul>  |
| CALCITONIN<br>200 iu/mL   | Calcimar             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refrigerate ampoules</li> <li>• intermittent</li> </ul>  |
| CLODRONATE<br>30, 60 mg/mL                                      | Bonfos<br>Ostac      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1500 mg in 250 mL D5W or NS over 4 hours (for hypercalcemia, NS is preferred – consider using 500-1000 mL to optimize hydration)</li> <li>• 12 – 24 hour expiry depending on product</li> <li>• can be irritating (less with ↓ conc.)</li> </ul> |
| DEXAMETHASONE<br>4, 10 mg/mL                                    | Dexasone<br>Decadron | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• irritating: administer slowly</li> <li>• precipitates other medications</li> </ul>   |
| ERYTHROPOIETIN<br>2000 u/0.5 mL or 4000 u/0.4 mL                | Eprex                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refrigerate</li> </ul>   |
| FUROSEMIDE<br>10 mg/mL  | Lasix                |   |
| MAGNESIUM SULFATE<br>500 mg/mL                                  |                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only by large volume infusion</li> </ul>   |
| NALOXONE<br>0.4 mg/mL   | Narcan               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• onset slightly slower than IV (2 – 5 min. vs. 1 – 2 min.)</li> </ul>   |
| PHENOBARBITAL<br>30, 120 mg/mL                                  |                      |   |
| POTASSIUM CHLORIDE<br>2 mEq/mL                                  | KCl                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can be irritating</li> <li>• <b>ONLY</b> be large volume infusion</li> </ul>   |
| SCOPOLAMINE<br>(HYOSCINE HBr)<br>0.4, 0.6 mg/mL                 |                      |   |

**REMEMBER:** For referrals, questions, or telephone consultations call 496-1300 weekdays and weekends.

*Palliative Care Tips are now available on our Website: [www.palliative.org](http://www.palliative.org)*