

What Is Hydromorphone And Why Is It Prescribed?

Hydromorphone is an opioid medication used in hospice to relieve and reduce symptoms of pain, shortness of breath, cough, or chest pain. This medication can be prescribed in oral liquid, tablet, or injectable forms. Hydromorphone is used as a short-acting medication, meaning it is used for immediate relief of symptoms

Why Did My Medical Provider Order Two Different Types Of Opioids?

Long-acting opioids are not effective in treating a sudden episode of pain or shortness of breath because it is a time-released medication. Short-acting medications may be needed in addition to a long-acting medications like Hydromorphone in order to completely and effectively manage symptoms.

What Are Common Side Effects Of Morphine?

- **Drowsiness & Fatigue:** This side effect may occur initially and is usually temporary, subsiding a few days after your body adjusts to the medication.
- **Constipation: Opioid-Induced-Constipation** is common. To reduce the risk of this symptom, HopeWest will start a bowel medication to be taken while using hydromorphone. If you still experience constipation while using hydromorphone and a bowel medication, tell your nurse.
- **Nausea:** This side effect may initially occur, but tends to wear off after a few days of taking the medication. Taking our medication with a light snack may help reduce nausea symptoms.
- **Dizziness:** To reduce your risk of falls, change position slowly when getting up. If this symptom persists, tell your nurse.

How Do I Take This Medication?

- Be sure to follow the directions given by your medical provider. Never use Hydromorphone in larger amounts than prescribed.
- A HopeWest nurse will teach you or your caregiver how to safely measure oral liquid medication. Oral liquid doses can be administered under the tongue or against the cheek for ease of swallowing.

What This Medication Will Not Do When Taken As Prescribed:

- When taking Hydromorphone as prescribed, this medication will not hasten death and it will rarely cause addiction.
- As your disease progresses, your body may develop a tolerance to this medication and you may require an increase in your dosage to effectively treat symptoms.

Contact HopeWest at any time for assistance or if you have additional questions.
A Registered Nurse is available 24/7 including after hours, weekends, and holidays.