



Pharmacology Unit IV



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Pain medications

*Analgesics are drugs that relieve pain without producing loss of consciousness or reflex activity

- Nociceptors are receptors for pain
- Opiate receptors block pain sensation
- Pain rating scale
- Pain is the fifth vital sign



Opiate agonists



Naturally occurring and synthetic drugs that have the capability to relieve severe pain without loss of consciousness



Stimulate opiate receptors in CNS



Can produce physical dependence; controlled substances



Can produce tolerance, addiction



(Eg) tramadol (ultram) is new, physical addiction unlikely



(Eg) codeine, morphine, oxycodone (oxycontin), fentanyl



Baseline assessment; orientation, alertness, motor functioning, bilateral hand grips, VS (hold if R<12), check bowel sounds, BM record, check prior use of analgesics, pain assessment



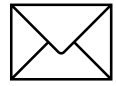
Side effects to expect; light-headedness, dizziness, sedation, N/V, sweating, confusion, disorientation, orthostatic hypotension, constipation



Side effects to report; resp depression, urinary retention, excessive use, abuse



Drug interactions; CNS depressants



Drug class: opiate partial agonists



Used when prior administration of opiate agonists has not occurred



Tolerance



Ceiling effect



Used for short-term relief (up to 3 weeks) of moderate to severe pain (eg) CA, burns, renal colic, obstetric and surgical analgesia



Same preassessments



Same expected side effects



Side effects to report; confusion, disorientation and hallucinations, resp depression, excessive use, abuse



Drug interactions; CNS depressants, opiate agonists



(Eg) nalbuphine (nubain)



Opiate antagonists



Reverses respiratory depression, sedation, hypotension associated with opiate agonists and opiate partial agonists



(Eg) nalcant (naloxone)



Baseline VS, neurological assessment, alertness and orientation frequently, have supportive equipment bedside or available



Monitor urinary and bowel



Drug class: salicylates



Slight to moderate pain



Most common analgesic



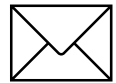
Analgesic, antipyretic and antiinflammatory



ASA inhibits platelet aggregation, enhancement of bleeding time



(Eg) ASA and dolobid (diflusal)



Drug class; Nonsteroidal Antiinflammatory agents



analgesics, antipyretics, antiinflammatories



Alternative to ASA



Cost is higher than ASA



Used for RA, osteoarthritis, gout, minor aches and pains, backaches, menstrual cramps,
H/A



preassessment



VS, orientation, bilat hand grips, motee functioning, vision, hearing, pain
assessment/pain scale



Side effects to expect; gastric irritation, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness



Side effects to report; GI bleeding, confusion, hives



(eg) ASA, motrin (ibuprophen), naproxen (naprosyn)



Tylenol (acetaminophen) is classified as a miscellaneous analgesic; analgesic and
antipyretic



Essentially free of side effects