

## **Package leaflet: Information for the user**

### **Morphine Sulphate 1mg/5ml Solution for Injection (0.2mg in 1ml) morphine sulphate**

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Morphine Sulphate Injection is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Morphine Sulphate Injection
3. How Morphine Sulphate Injection is given to you
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Morphine Sulphate Injection
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Morphine Sulphate Injection is and what it is used for**

Morphine Sulphate Injection belongs to a group of medicines called opioid (narcotic) analgesics. Analgesics are medicines that relieve pain.

Morphine Sulphate Injection is used to relieve moderate to severe pain.

#### **2. What you need to know before you are given Morphine Sulphate Injection**

##### **You should not be given this medicine**

- if you are allergic to morphine sulphate, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you are taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or have been taking them within the last two weeks. MAOIs, such as phenelzine or isocarboxazid, are medicines used to treat depression
- if you suffer from breathing disorders including chronic lung disease. Symptoms may include breathlessness, coughing, wheezing and/or shortness of breath.
- if you suffer from a condition causing bluish discolouration of the skin due to lack of oxygen in the blood
- if you are at a risk of having a blocked intestine
- if you have recently undergone an operation of the abdomen, suffer from severe stomach cramps or severe pain in your abdomen or a condition in which there is partial paralysis of the stomach
- if you have had a head injury or increased pressure in the brain
- if you know that you have tumour of the adrenal glands, a condition called pheochromocytoma
- if you suffer from kidney or liver problems
- if you are prone to having fits
- if you have recently been drinking large amounts of alcohol

- if you have an infection at the site of injection
- if you are on treatment for thinning your blood
- if you suffer from bleeding disorders.

**This medicine should not be used in children.**

Tell your doctor if any of these apply to you before you are given this medicine.

### **Warnings and Precautions**

Talk to your doctor or Pharmacist or nurse before using Morphine Sulphate Injection:

- if you have problems with breathing properly (your doctor will let you know if you can still have Morphine Sulphate Injection depending on the reason for your breathing problem)
- if you have an under-active thyroid
- if you suffer from shock
- if you have kidney or liver problems
- if you are prone to having fits and have history of epilepsy
- if you have increased pressure in the brain, which would give you a severe headache and make you feel sick
- if you have low blood pressure and do not have enough blood in your body, which may make you feel lightheaded, faint, dizzy or have cold hands and feet
- if you have swelling of the pancreas or bile duct problems
- if you have poor adrenal gland function. Weakness, fatigue, lack of appetite, nausea, vomiting or low blood pressure. This may be a symptom of the adrenals producing too little of the hormone cortisol, and you may need to take hormone supplement.
- if you have an enlarged prostate gland
- if you have bowel problems (inflammatory bowel disorders)
- if you have a heart problem after long-term lung disease (known as severe cor pulmonale)
- if you are about to have an operation or have had one less than 24 hours ago
- if you have an addiction to or a history of alcohol or drug abuse, or you have previously suffered from withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, anxiety, shaking and sweating upon stopping taking alcohol or drugs. Also tell if you feel that you are becoming dependent on Morphine Sulphate injection while you are using it. You may have started to think a lot about when you can take the next dose, even if you do not need it for the pain.
- if you are elderly, or are in a poor state of health.
- if you are taking any medicine from the group of medicines known as benzodiazepines. Taking these medicines with Morphine Sulphate Injection may result in sedation, difficulties in breathing (respiratory depression), coma and may be fatal. Even if benzodiazepines are prescribed, your doctor may need to change the dose, the duration of treatment or monitor you regularly.
- abstinence symptoms or dependence. The most common abstinence symptoms are mentioned in section 3. Even if benzodiazepines are prescribed, your doctor may need to change the dose, the duration of treatment or monitor you regularly.
- increased sensitivity to pain despite the fact that you are taking increasing doses (hyperalgesia). Your doctor will decide whether you will need a change in dose or a change in strong analgesic (“painkiller”), (see section 2)

- loss of libido, impotence, cessation of menstruation. This may be because of decreased sex hormone production.

Speak to your doctor if any of these apply to you before you are given this medicine.

### **Other medicines and Morphine Sulphate Injection**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

A large number of drugs can interact with Morphine Sulphate Injection which can significantly alter their effects. These include:

- medicines that help you to sleep e.g. tranquilisers, hypnotics or sedatives (e.g. temazepam, diazepam, haloperidol and sulphiride)
  - medicines to treat schizophrenia or other serious mental illness, such as phenothiazines (which may be present in various medicines including some for treating allergic disorders e.g. prochlorperazine, chlorpromazine and pipotiazine, promethazine)
  - medicines to relax your muscles (e.g. baclofen, tizanidine)
  - medicines to treat high blood pressure (e.g. methyldopa, moxonidine)
  - gabapentin to treat epilepsy or pain due to nerve problems
  - a general anaesthetic that makes you sleep, usually before an operation
  - cimetidine (a medicine for ulcers, indigestion, or heartburn)
  - another opioid painkiller (e.g. buprenorphine, nalbuphine, pentazocine)
  - rifampicin (a medicine used for tuberculosis)
  - some medicines used to treat blood clots (e.g. clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor) may have delayed and decreased effect when taken together with opium.
  - ritonavir (a medicine used to treat HIV)
  - MAOIs used to treat depression (refer to “You should not be given this medicine if” in section 2 above).
- If you are already taking one of these medicines, speak to your doctor before you are given Morphine Sulphate Injection.
- concomitant use of Morphine Sulphate Injection and sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs increases the risk of drowsiness, difficulties in breathing (respiratory depression), coma and may be life-threatening. Because of this, concomitant use should only be considered when other treatment options are not possible.

However if your doctor does prescribe Morphine Sulphate Injection together with sedative medicines the dose and duration of concomitant treatment should be limited by your doctor.

Please tell your doctor about all sedative medicines you are taking, and follow your doctor’s dose recommendation closely. It could be helpful to inform friends or relatives to be aware of the signs and symptoms stated above. Contact your doctor when experiencing such symptoms.

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

Physicochemical incompatibility (formation of precipitates) has been demonstrated between solutions of morphine sulphate and 5- fluorouracil.

### **Morphine Sulphate Injection with food, drink and alcohol**

You must avoid drinking alcohol during your treatment with Morphine Sulphate Injection.

### **Pregnancy and breast feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

If you are given Morphine Sulphate Injection while you are in labour, your baby may have breathing problems. This medicine should not be administered to breast-feeding mothers.

If you have been treated with Morphine Sulphate Injection before your baby is born, the baby may experience symptoms of withdrawal after it is born (e.g. watery eyes, diarrhoea, runny nose, loss of appetite, vomiting, feeling hot then cold).

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

### **Driving and using machines**

Morphine Sulphate Injection will cause drowsiness which could interfere with your ability to drive or to use machines. Do not drive or operate machinery whilst you are taking this medicine. When your Morphine Sulphate Injection treatment has stopped, ask your doctor when it will be safe for you to drive or use machines.

### **Tolerance and dependence**

Morphine Sulphate Injection can become less effective with repeated use. This is called tolerance and it means that the dose may need to be increased for morphine to remain as effective. If Morphine Sulphate Injection is used repeatedly, it may become habit-forming. This is called dependence and if morphine treatment is stopped suddenly unpleasant withdrawal symptoms may occur. Dependence on morphine may occur after one or two weeks of treatment with the doses required to relieve pain.

### **Morphine Sulphate Injection contains sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per ampoule, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

### **3. How Morphine Sulphate Injection is given to you**

Morphine Sulphate Injection is given by injection into a space close to the spinal cord. It may be injected into the epidural space, (an epidural injection) or into the fluid-filled space closer to the spinal cord (an intrathecal injection).

It will be administered by a trained healthcare professional. Your doctor will choose the most suitable dose depending on your age and your particular condition.

### **Use in Children**

Morphine Sulphate Injection should not be used in children.

### **If you think you have been given more Morphine Sulphate Injection than you should have**

This is unlikely as your injection will be administered by a doctor. If you are concerned about the dose, discuss this with your doctor. If it does happen the doctor will treat any symptoms that follow.

People who have taken an overdose may get pneumonia from inhaling vomit or foreign matter, symptoms may include breathlessness, cough and fever.

People who have taken an overdose may also have breathing difficulties leading to unconsciousness or even death.

### **If you think you have missed a dose of Morphine Sulphate Injection**

If you think that you have missed a dose, tell your doctor immediately.

### **If you stop being given Morphine Sulphate Injection**

Do not stop treatment with Morphine Sulphate Injection unless agreed with your doctor. If you want to stop the treatment with Morphine Sulphate Injection, ask your doctor how to slowly decrease the doses so you avoid abstinence symptoms. Abstinence symptoms may include body aches, tremors, diarrhoea, stomach pain, nausea, flu-like symptoms, fast heartbeat and large pupils. Psychological symptoms include an intense feeling of dissatisfaction, anxiety and irritability.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side-effects, although not everybody gets them. Side effects grouped by frequency of occurrence

**All medicines can cause allergic reactions although serious allergic reactions are uncommon.**

**Any sudden wheeziness, difficulty in breathing, swelling of the eyelids, face or lips, rash or itching especially those covering your whole body and paralytic Ileus (characterized by swollen belly, fullness, gas, abdominal spasms, constipation, diarrhea, nausea with or without vomiting, and foul-smelling breath) should be reported to a doctor immediately.**

**The most serious side effect of Morphine Sulphate Injection is slowing of breathing or shallow breathing.**

### **Other side effects are:**

**Common:** may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- confusion, abnormal thoughts, difficulty in sleeping
- headache, dizziness, muscle twitching or spasms, drowsiness
- slowing of breathing or shallow breathing , decreased cough
- pain or discomfort in the stomach or back, loss of appetite, stomach upset or indigestion, feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting), constipation, dry mouth
- sweating, rash
- a feeling of unusual weakness, itching (pruritus)
- flare up of pancreatitis (swollen and tender abdomen).
- inappropriate eating habits, abnormal physical weakness or lack of energy

**Uncommon:** may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- mood changes, a feeling of extreme happiness or sadness, agitation, seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations)
- morphine, when used repeatedly becomes habit forming (dependence on the drug)
- a feeling of dizziness or 'spinning' (vertigo), fits or convulsions, tingling in the hands and feet,

fainting or loss of consciousness , stiff muscles

- constriction of pupils of the eyes, blurred vision
- an unusually slow, fast or irregular heart beat
- high blood pressure, low blood pressure, redness of the face
- slowing of breathing or shallow breathing
- problems with your stomach, such as upset stomach, stomach cramps, constipation or not passing wind, a life-threatening condition of the intestine (colon) known as ‘Toxic Megacolon’ which may be accompanied by a larger stomach area than normal, pain and fever or changes in taste
- increase in liver enzymes, pain in your abdomen
- rash causing redness of skin
- difficulty in passing water or a severe, sharp pain on one or both sides of your lower back
- absence of menstrual periods, decreased sexual drive, problems with erection
- repeated use of the drug causes the drug to be less effective. When stopped suddenly causes withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, anxiety, shaking or sweating, feeling of discomfort or uneasiness, swelling of tissues due to accumulation of fluid.

**Not Known:** frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- low body temperature
- narcotic bowel Syndrome (chronic or frequently recurring abdominal pain)
- allodynia (pain due to stimulus which does not normally provoke pain)
- hyperaesthesia (abnormal increase in sensitivity to stimuli such as touch, heat, cold)
- sweating
- dry mouth
- abstinence symptoms or dependence

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

### **5. How to store Morphine Sulphate Injection**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and ampoule label after ‘Exp’. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Keep the ampoule in the outer carton in order to protect from light. Do not store above 25°C.

For single use only.

Once the ampoule has been opened it should be used immediately.

Do not use this medicine if you notice the ampoule is damaged or if the contents are discoloured or deteriorated. If only part of the contents of an ampoule is used, the remaining solution should be discarded.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Morphine Sulphate Injection contains**

The active substance is morphine sulphate. Each 5ml (1ml) of the solution contains 1mg (0.2mg) of morphine sulphate.

The other ingredients are sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide or dilute hydrochloric acid and water for injections.

### **What Morphine Sulphate Injection looks like and contents of pack**

Morphine Sulphate Injection is a clear, colourless or almost colourless sterile solution for injection in 5ml clear glass ampoules.

Pack size: 10 ampoules may be packaged together in cardboard cartons.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

Marketing Authorisation Holder

Mercury Pharmaceuticals (Ireland) Ltd., 4045, Kingswood Road, City West Business Park, Co Dublin, Ireland

### **Manufacturer**

B. Braun Melsungen AG, Mistelweg 2, 12357 Berlin, Germany.

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