**Narcotic Analgesics (Opiates)**

**Opiates** are naturally occurring substances derived from opium poppies, and synthetic substitutes. The **narcotic** term is a central nervous system depressant that produces pain relieving effects called **analgesics**. Opioid narcotics activate opioid receptors in the brain, which normally react to natural endorphin peptide transmitters. Narcotics enhance the endorphin system, releasing dopamine to create a pleasure effect, which can lead to rapid addiction (Hanson, Venturelli, & Fleckenstein, 2009).

**Natural opium narcotics** are morphine, heroin, oxycodone, and codeine. **Synthetic opioid narcotics** examples are fentanyl, methadone, LAAM or Levomethadyl Acetate Hydrochloride. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>

**Street Slang:** Smack, H, Mexican Brown, ska, junk, hillbilly heroin, oxy, OC, oxycotton, percs, happy pills, vikes, Big H. Street names for fentanyl include Apache, China girl, China white, dance fever, friend, goodfella, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, as well as Tango and Cash. <http://teens.drugabuse.gov/facts/facts_rx1.php#common_street_names>

**Street slang for narcotics, opiates** and other drugs gets outdated quickly. This is a good website but it has not been updated since 2005. Slang is regional and changes often <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/streetterms/ByType.asp?intTypeID=22>.

**Therapeutic uses** **for prescription opiates**

* Severe pain relief not relieved by non-narcotic pain relievers, surgery, cancer
* Help with withdrawal symptoms from other drugs and opiates
* Antitussive (suppress coughing)
* Diarrhea relief (slow intestines)

**Physiological effects from the abuse of sedative hypnotics**

* Euphoric rush, but also nausea, vomiting, and restlessness
* Slower breathing, small constricted pupils, cool moist skin with bluish color
* Slowing movement in the body and intestines may lead to constipation
* Drowsiness, respiratory depression, convulsions, coma and death

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/122051-opiate-drug-effects>

When a person develops physical dependence from the body adapting to the drug in its system, stopping or reducing use of the drug can cause severe symptoms of **withdrawal.** [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov).

Symptoms get increasingly worse due to the sudden over-activity of the autonomic nervous system and may include excessively running nose and eyes, yawning, anxiety, “goosebumps”, insomnia, excessive sweating, chills, drug craving, pupil dilation, aching bones and muscles, loss of appetite, raised blood pressure and pulse, nausea, fever, vomiting diarrhea, foot kicking, and curling into a fetal position. <http://www.livestrong.com/article/122051-opiate-drug-effects>

**Health risks of the abuse of opiates**

* Collapsed veins, heart, heart valve infections
* Injections of opiates can increase risk of HIV, AIDS, hepatitis, abscesses
* Acne, skin problems, infections due to improper hygiene
* Decreased immunity and related problems
* Liver and digestive system problems
* Respiratory depression, which increases pulmonary and respiratory problems such as pneumonia and bronchitis
* Accidents due to clouded thinking and drowsiness
* Addiction, seizures, death   
    
  <http://www.livestrong.com/article/72769-longterm-effects-opiate-use/#ixzz1Ksp1xcQ2>

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/Heroin.html>

**Opiate replacement therapy** treats opiate addiction as a chronic physical illness using drugs that are safer while recovering, monitored by Federal Law, addictions to the replacement drugs is a risk, and deaths have occurred.

**Methadone Maintenance Treatment-** methadone is an opioid agonist which “occupies” the brain receptors sites affected by heroin and other opiates, it blocks the euphoric and sedating effects, relieves cravings for the opiates, allows for normal activities for work and society, safer monitoring than heroin and dose based on individual, safer for abuser for sanitary administration and environment, cost effective but needs daily treatment, can become addicted to methadone instead of heroin <http://www.cdc.gov/IDU/facts/Methadone.htm>

**Bupenorphrine** is a partial opioid agonist, daily administration that can eventually be administered at home rather than at a doctor office like Methadone, pill form, working best for addicts with a shorter addiction history. It stops withdrawal symptoms, eliminates cravings, blocks opiate euphoria, corrects neurochemical abnormalities from opiates, often used for pregnant abusers and their babies reducing withdrawal. <http://www.hbo.com/addcition/print/343_treating_opiate_addiction.html> <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/10/us/10babies.html>

**LAAM**, levo-alpha-acetyl-methadol is a synthetic opiod used for opioid addiction when Methadone and Bupenorphrine is not effective, it is only taken every couple of days, is federally regulated available in approved medical facilities. It creates a cross-tolerance to other opiates, blocks euphoria, reduces cravings, can have quick addiction to LAAM <http://www.opiates.com/laam/>

**Waismann Method** is detoxification under anesthesia, the body's opiate receptors are cleansed of opiates and uses **Accelerated Neuro-Regulation (ANR)** while the patient is asleep, ridding the body of physical addiction, eliminate cravings, in days rather than months compared to traditional rehab. <http://www.opiates.com/laam/>

Although clinics that utilize ANR, **Rapid Detox**, or **Ultra Rapid Detox** are advertised as for-profit, treatment is controversial, however; it is a potential “tool” to use for treatment of physical withdrawal. **Naltrexone** is used after medical detoxification in a residential setting to block opioids from binding to receptors, and prevent euphoria from opioids. It can cause withdrawal symptoms if taken to soon after detoxification. Naloxone is similar to Naltrexone and is used as an antidote for narcotic overdoses. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/Infofacts/heroin.html>

**Behavioral treatment** is recommended with addiction treatment programs for better results and management of triggers of drug use, cognitive thought of situations

**Narcotics Anonymous and 12-Step** programs, abstinence from the drug of addiction, talk therapy among peers to learn coping and support, good choice if client is not supportive of replacement therapy, and for spiritual reinforcement (Narcotics Anonymous, 2008)

**Names of Narcotic analgesics and Brand Names**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Heroin |  |
| Morphine | Astramorph PF, Roxanol, MSIR,  MS Contin, Kadian, Avinza, Duramorph, RMS, Oramorph SR, Infumorph |
| Fentanyl | Ionsys, Oncolis, Sublimaze, Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora, Abstral |
| Hydromorphone | Dilaudid, Exalgo, Palladone |
| Meperidine | Meperitab, Demerol |
| Codeine (morphine methylether) | Cough suppressants |
| Buprenorphine | Subutex, Butrans, Buprenex, Probyphine |
| Pentazocine | Talwin |
| Propoxyhene | Darvon-N, PP-Cap, Dolene |
| Oxycodone | Oxyfast, Roxicodone Intensol, Roxicodone, Oxycontin, OxyIR, Percolone, Oxydose, Dazidox, ETH-Oxydose |
| Peregoric | Opium, opium Deodorized |
| Vicodin | hydrocodone with acet­aminophen |
| Methadone | Dolophine, Methadose |
| Nalbuphine | Nubain |
| Levomethadyl acetate | Orlaam, LAAM |
| Oxymorphone | Opana, Numorphan |
| Levorphanol | Levo-Dromoran |
| Butorphanol | Stadol |
| MPTP |  |

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001944>

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