

# HYDROMORPHONE

<i>Client:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Clinician:</i>	

Hydromorphone is in a group of drugs called narcotic pain relievers, also called opioids. It is similar to morphine. Hydromorphone is used to treat moderate to severe pain.

### **What is the most important information I should know about hydromorphone?**

Hydromorphone may be habit-forming and should be used only by the person it was prescribed for. Hydromorphone should never be given to another person, especially someone who has a history of drug abuse or addiction. Do not drink alcohol while you are taking hydromorphone. Dangerous side effects or death can occur when alcohol is combined with a narcotic pain medicine. Check your food and medicine labels to be sure these products do not contain alcohol. Never take more than your prescribed dose of hydromorphone. Tell your doctor if the medicine seems to stop working as well in relieving your pain. Hydromorphone can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be awake and alert. Do not stop using hydromorphone suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor about how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when stopping the medication.

### **What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before using hydromorphone?**

Do not use this medication if you have ever had an allergic reaction to a narcotic medicine (examples include codeine, methadone, morphine, Oxycontin, Darvocet, Percocet, Vicodin, Lortab, and many others). Before using hydromorphone, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs, or if you have:

• asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, or other breathing disorders	• liver or kidney disease
• Addison's disease or other adrenal gland disorders	• underactive thyroid
• a history of head injury or brain tumor	• curvature of the spine
• epilepsy or other seizure disorder	• gallbladder disease
• enlarged prostate, urination problems	• low blood pressure
• a history of drug or alcohol addiction	• mental illness

### **Side Effects**

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- shallow breathing, slow heartbeat
- seizure (convulsions)
- cold, clammy skin
- confusion
- severe weakness or dizziness or feeling light-headed, fainting.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Contact the on-call nurse if you are experiencing any change in your current health condition.

For ALL emergencies requiring IMMEDIATE medical attention, call 911.

Less serious side effects are more likely to occur, such as:

- nausea, vomiting, constipation, loss of appetite;
- warmth, tingling, or redness under your skin
- dizziness, headache
- dry mouth
- sweating
- itching

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