

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

Arrow – Morphine LA

Morphine sulphate 10 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg and 100 mg long acting tablets

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor weighed the risks of you taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What ARROW – MORPHINE LA is used for

Morphine is a pain reliever that belongs to a group of medicines called opioid analgesics. It acts mainly on the central nervous system and on smooth muscle.

The special tablet core is designed to prolong the release of the active over time (L.A. stands for “long acting”).

ARROW – MORPHINE LA is used for prolonged relief of opioid responsive severe pain.

Your doctor, however, may have prescribed ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets for another purpose. Ask your doctor if you have any questions why ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets have been prescribed for you.

This medicine is a controlled drug (Class B1) and can only be obtained on prescription from your doctor.

Before you take ARROW – MORPHINE LA

When you must not take it

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you have had an allergic reaction to:

- morphine sulphate
- other opioids
- any ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:

- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Do not give ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets to children.

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you have the following medical conditions:

- Breathing problems
- Obstructive airways disease. This is a disease characterised by limited airflow.
- Liver disease
- Acute alcoholism
- Head injuries and conditions in which pressure within the head is raised
- During an asthma attack
- Heart failure due to long term lung disease
- Severe abdominal pain with bloating, cramps or vomiting
- A condition where your small bowel does not work properly

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you have undergone surgery within the last 24 hours

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you have undergone abdominal surgery unless your doctor has advised otherwise.

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if you are taking medicine for depression containing a "monoamine oxidase inhibitor" (such as Nardil, Parnate), or have taken one within the past two weeks.

Do not operate machinery of any sort or drive a vehicle while taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA.

Do not take any other medicines or drugs without talking to your doctor first.

Do not take ARROW – MORPHINE LA if:

- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering
- the expiry date printed on the pack has passed
If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.
If the pharmacist has repacked the medicine for you, there may not be an expiry date on the pack.

If you are not sure if you should be taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Prior to long-term prescription, a trial of ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets or shorter acting opioids, should be undertaken (e.g. for a period of four to six weeks). Long-term administration of ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets should only occur if this trial demonstrates that you respond only to opioid pain relief. If you do not respond to rapid dose escalation (with no concomitant pain relief) within the trial period then long-term therapy is not appropriate for you.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if you are or intend to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medicine during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you intend to breastfeed.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following conditions:

- Hypothyroidism – low output from thyroid gland

- Adrenocortical insufficiency – low function of adrenal gland
- Impaired liver function
- Impaired kidney function
- Prostatic hypertrophy – enlarged prostate
- Shock
- Obstructive bowel disorders
- Myasthenia gravis - severe muscle weakness
- Heart problems or heart disease
- Low blood pressure
- Chronic lung disease
- Suffer from convulsions, fits or seizures

Caution is advised in the elderly.

The elderly are more likely to experience side effects.

Addiction

You can become addicted to ARROW – MORPHINE LA even if you take it exactly as prescribed. ARROW – MORPHINE LA may become habit forming causing mental and physical dependence. If abused it may become less able to reduce pain.

Dependence

As with all other opioid containing products, your body may become used to you taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA. Taking it may result in physical dependence. Physical dependence means that you may experience withdrawal symptoms if you stop taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA suddenly, so it is important to take it exactly as directed by your doctor.

Tolerance

Tolerance to ARROW – MORPHINE LA may develop, which means that the effect of the medicine may decrease. If this happens, more may be needed to maintain the same effect.

Withdrawal

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. If you stop having this medicine suddenly, your pain may worsen and you may experience some or all of the following withdrawal symptoms:

- nervousness, restlessness, agitation, trouble sleeping or anxiety
- body aches, weakness or stomach cramps
- loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- increased heart rate, breathing rate or pupil size
- watery eyes, runny nose, chills or yawning
- increased sweating.

Very rarely, some patients have experienced the following withdrawal reactions:

- panic attacks
- severe anxiety
- hallucinations
- tingling or numbness (pins and needles)
- ringing in your ears
- confusion, delusions or paranoia.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or healthfood shop.

Do not take monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI's) or use ARROW – MORPHINE LA within two weeks of discontinuing MAOI use.

The depressant effects of ARROW – MORPHINE LA are enhanced by depressants of the central nervous system such as:

- Alcohol
- Anaesthetics
- Hypnotics
- sedatives
- tricyclic antidepressants
- phenothiazines – medicines used to treat mental disorders

ARROW – MORPHINE LA's gastro-intestinal effects may delay the absorption of mexilitine.

ARROW – MORPHINE LA may counteract the effect of metoclopramide.

These medicines may be affected by ARROW – MORPHINE LA, or may affect how well it works. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure you are taking any of these medicines.

How to take ARROW – MORPHINE LA

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets should be used twice daily unless otherwise specified by your doctor. The dosage is dependent upon the nature and severity of the pain, your condition and previous history of analgesic therapy. The dose may be altered from time to time depending on the severity of pain.

Do not take more or less ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets than your doctor has prescribed. If you think the dose is too weak or too strong, talk to your doctor.

How to take it

Swallow ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets whole with a glass of water. ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets may be taken with or without meals. Do not chew the tablets.

When to take it

The tablets should normally be taken twice daily at 12 hourly intervals or as instructed by your doctor.

How long to take it

Take it for as long as your doctor has prescribed.

If you forget or are unable to take it

Breakthrough pain should be treated with immediate release morphine sulphate dose forms, not extra ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets. Take your next dose of ARROW – MORPHINE LA when you are supposed to.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the **Poisons Information Centre (phone 0800 POISON (0800 764 766))** or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much ARROW – MORPHINE LA. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Common features of overdose include: pin-point pupils, respiratory depression and low blood pressure. In more severe cases, heart failure and coma may occur.

While you are taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA

Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you, that you are taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking ARROW- MORPHINE LA tablets.

If you are going to have surgery, tell your doctor you are taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets.

Tell your doctor if you feel the tablets are not helping your condition.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not drive or operate machinery.

Do not let yourself run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays.

Do not give ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets to anyone else even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets to treat other complaints unless your doctor says to.

Do not take any other medicines whether they require a prescription or not without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you. Common side effects are:

- nausea
- vomiting
- constipation
- drowsiness
- confusion
- dry mouth
- sweating
- facial flushing
- dizziness
- mood changes

ARROW – MORPHINE LA may produce severe adverse effects that could require hospitalisation. Seek medical treatment immediately.

Symptoms are:

- slow or troubled breathing
- restlessness
- palpitations
- fall in blood pressure on standing
- constriction of pupils
- hypothermia
- abnormal heartbeat
- any signs of an allergic reaction
- unconsciousness
- difficulty passing urine or cramps in the stomach region

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using ARROW – MORPHINE LA

Storage

Keep your tablets in the original container and protect from light until it is time to take them.

If you take the medicine out of its container, it may not keep well.

Keep ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store it, or any other medicine, in a bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets where children cannot reach them.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking ARROW – MORPHINE LA tablets, or the medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any remaining tablets.

Product Description

What ARROW - MORPHINE looks like

10 mg tablets

Each 10 mg modified release tablet is a smooth biconvex buff coloured film coated round tablet embossed with 10 on one side.

30 mg tablets

Each 30 mg modified release tablet is a smooth biconvex violet coloured film coated round tablet embossed with 30 on one side.

60 mg tablets

Each 60 mg modified release tablet is a smooth biconvex orange coloured film coated round tablet embossed with 60 on one side.

100 mg tablets

Each 100 mg modified release tablet is a smooth biconvex grey coloured film coated round tablet embossed with 100 on one side.

ARROW – MORPHINE LA comes in blister packs containing 10 tablets.

Other ingredients

Lactose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hypromellose, povidone, talc, magnesium stearate

Colours:

E171, E172 - 10 mg

E110, E127, E132 - 30 mg

E171, E110 - 60 mg

E171, E172 - 100 mg

Supplier

ARROW – MORPHINE LA is distributed in New Zealand by:

Teva Pharma (New Zealand) Limited
PO Box 128 244
Remuera
Auckland 1541
Telephone: 0800 800 097

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15 September 2021

(based on the data sheet dated 31 August 2021)