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NARCOTIC ANALGESICS - ORAL

USES: This medication is used to relieve moderate to severe pain.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: To prevent upset stomach, take with food or milk.

Pain medications work best in preventing pain before it occurs. Once the pain becomes intense, the medication is not as effective in relieving it.

Take this as prescribed. Do not increase your dose, take it more frequently or use it for a longer period of time without your doctor's approval. Also, if used for a long period of time at high doses, do not suddenly stop taking this without first consulting your doctor.

When used for extended periods, this medication may not work as well and may require different dosing. Consult your doctor if the medication isn't relieving the pain sufficiently.

SIDE EFFECTS: May cause constipation, lightheadedness, dizziness, drowsiness, stomach upset, nausea, and flushing the first few days as your body adjusts to the medication. If these symptoms persist or become bothersome, inform your doctor.

To minimize constipation, increase your intake of fiber, drink plenty of water, and exercise. Stool softeners may be helpful. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about stool softeners and laxatives.

Notify your doctor if you develop irregular heartbeat, anxiety or tremors.

In the unlikely event you have an allergic reaction to this drug, seek medical attention immediately. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include rash, itching, swelling, dizziness or trouble breathing.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other narcotic pain medicine or have had substance abuse problems.

Use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness. Alcoholic beverages or other sedatives may add to the effects of this medication causing dizziness or drowsiness. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the use of alcohol.

Long term use of this drug may lead to dependence and, less likely, addiction. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain the differences between these. Use regularly if so prescribed.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

This drug is excreted into breast milk and may affect the

infant. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of all prescription and nonprescription drugs you may be using especially MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, phenelzine, selegiline, tranylcypramine), psychiatric drugs, tranquilizers, sleep medications, zidovudine, rifampin, any other pain relievers, barbiturates, anti-seizure drugs, certain antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine) or alcohol.

NOTES: Do not share this medication with others. It is against the law.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature between 59 and 86 degrees F (between 15 and 30 degrees C) away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.