A BRIEF GUIDE TO SELECTED COMMON PAINKILLERS

THERE ARE TWO MAIN CLASSES OF PAINKILLERS - PARACETAMOL IS AN EXCEPTION. **Key:**



N NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS



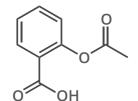
PARACETAMOL



O OPIOID ANALGESICS

ASPIRIN

MORE COMMONLY PRESCRIBED FOR BLOOD CLOT PREVENTION



Salicylate drug

TRADE NAMES Aspirin, Acuprin, Ecotrin

Inhibits cyclo-oxygenase enzymes, (COX) preventing formation of prostaglandins and reducing inflammation & pain.

IBUPROFEN

POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS LESS THAN OTHER NSAIDS

A phenylpropanoic acid

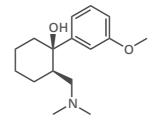
TRADE NAMES

Advil, Nurofen, Motrin, Brufen

Exact mode of action unknown. However, it is known to inhibit COX enzymes, and thus the formation of prostaglandins.

TRAMADOL

METABOLISED IN THE BODY TO A MORE POTENT OPIOID



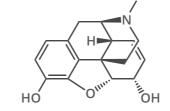
Synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES Ryzolt, Tramal, Ultram

Binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system, & inhibits noradrenaline & serotonin reuptake, • inhibiting pain transmission.

MORPHINE

THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL PLANT ALKALOID EVER ISOLATED



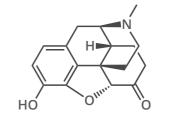
Naturally-occurring opioid

MS Contin, Oramorph, Sevredol

Precise mechanism unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

• HYDROMORPHONE

MOSTLY USED INTRAVENOUSLY IN A HOSPITAL SETTING



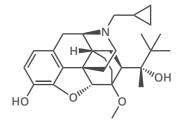
Semi-synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES Palladone, Dilaudid

Precise mechanism unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

BUPRENORPHINE

ALSO COMMONLY USED TO TREAT OPIOID DEPENDENCE



Semi-synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES

Suboxone, Subutex, Zubsolv

Precise mechanism unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system. Also has potent local anaesthetic properties.

POTENCY (VS. MORPHINE)

40

PARACETAMOL

A.K.A ACETAMINOPHEN, OR TYLENOL IN THE USA

Antipyretic analgesic

TRADE NAMES

Mode of action not well understood; it's thought it may act in a similar manner to aspirin, but also have effects in the brain.

Acetaminophen, Tylenol, Panadol

O CODEINE

THE MOST WIDELY USED OPIATE IN THE WORLD

Naturally occurring opioid

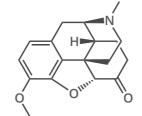
TRADE NAMES

Co-codamol (with paracetamol)

Precise mode of action unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

HYDROCODONE

AROUND 99% OF WORLDWIDE SUPPLY CONSUMED IN THE USA



Semi-synthetic opioid

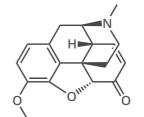
TRADE NAMES

Vicodin (with paracetamol)

Precise mode of action unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

OXYCODONE

ONE OF THE MOST ABUSED PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS



Semi-synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES Roxicodone, OxyContin, Oxecta

Precise mode of action unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

METHADONE

COMMONLY USED TO PREVENT HEROIN WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

Synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES Methadose, Dolophine, Symoron

Precise mode of action unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

FENTANYL

OFTEN USED FOR PAIN RELIEF **DURING SURGICAL PROCEDURES**

Synthetic opioid

TRADE NAMES

Actig, Durogesic, Abstral

Precise mode of action unknown; binds to opioid receptors in the central nervous system responsible for transmitting pain.

Note: Potency values are for oral administration. Numeric measures of potency are variable; the figures given are merely general approximations, and can be affected by a number of factors.

