Narcan (naloxone)

the first ‘pure’
narcotic antagonist

The only narcotic antagonist with no agonist properties

No respiratory depression

No activity in the absence of strong analgesics

Antagonises pentazocine

Narcan is the first narcotic antagonist to have no significant morphine-like (agonist) activity. Potent and rapid-acting, Narcan reverses respiratory depression and unwanted sedation induced by strong analgesics. But unlike other narcotic antagonists, it does not itself produce respiratory depression, analgesia, sedation or miosis. It has no psychotomimetic effects and does not cause tolerance or dependence.

In anaesthesia to counteract respiratory depression when strong analgesics are used to supplement anaesthetics.

Post-operatively to facilitate arousal for neurological assessment.

In emergencies as an antidote to narcotic or pentazocine overdosage and to aid diagnosis where opiates are the suspected cause.

Narcan is unique among narcotic antagonists in reversing the agonist effects of strong analgesics that have partial antagonist activity, such as pentazocine (Fortral).

Availability: Boxes of 10 ampoules of 1 ml each containing 0.4 mg naloxone.

‘Narcan’ and ‘Fortral’ are registered trade marks.

Full information available from your Hospital Pharmacist or on request from Winthrop Laboratories, Surbiton-upon-Thames, Surrey.
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