

Facts about Narcotics

What are Narcotics?

The term narcotic is derived from the Greek word for stupor. At one time, the term applied to any drug that induced sleep, but most refer to drugs that have strong analgesic properties.¹ Narcotics are medications that are morphine-like, whereas a similar analogy is NSAIDs, which are aspirin-like. There are numerous NSAIDs available because each NSAID Company believes that their product is safer and more effective than the others are. The same is true with the various narcotics. Each pharmaceutical company producing narcotics tries to develop an even stronger pain reliever with fewer side effects. By definition, narcotics, which act in a manner similar to morphine, are immunosuppressive.

Different kinds of narcotics:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vicodin | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxycontin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darvocet | <input type="checkbox"/> Codeine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duragesic | <input type="checkbox"/> Percodan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morphine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other addictive substances |

Known Effects of Narcotics on the Immune System:

- Suppress the cytotoxic activity of natural killer cells
- Enhance the growth of implanted tumors
- Depress T-Lymphocyte responsiveness to stimulation
- Abate delayed hypersensitive skin response
- Cause spleen atrophy
- Cause thymus gland atrophy
- Decrease T-lymphocyte numbers
- Decrease T-cell function
- Inhibit antibody production
- Inhibit B-cell activity
- Decrease levels of interferon
- Increase incidence of infections
- Depress the function of all cells of the immune system

What does medical literature say?

The Journal of Neuroimmunology, 85:36-44, 1998, in an article from T. K. Eisenstein and M. E. Hilburger from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Temple University School of Medicine, stated plainly, "In aggregate, the literature supports the existence of in vivo neural-immune circuit through which morphine acts to depress the function of all cells of the immune system." In other words, taking the medical literature as a whole, narcotics suppress every cell of the immune system.

How does this affect you?

The body needs an intact immune system to heal. Inflammation only occurs if there is an immune reaction. If complete healing is to take place, use of narcotics must be stopped. Often people who are in chronic pain have become narcotic-dependent. It is not absolutely necessary to be off of narcotics to begin therapy, though this is preferred, but there must be a willingness to get off of them. The person unwilling to do this has little hope of curing the chronic pain.