Narcan
(Naloxone)

McHenry Western Lake County
EMS
Objectives

- During this session we will discuss:
- Class
- Actions
- Indications
- Contraindications
- Dosing/Routes
- How supplied
- Precautions
- Side effects
Class:

• Narcotic Antagonist
Actions:

- Narcotic antagonist
- Reverse effects of opiate drugs, narcotics/synthetic narcotics: (examples)
  - Morphine, Dilaudid, Fentanyl, Demerol, Paregoric, Methadone, Heroin, Percodan, Tylox, Nubain, Stadol, Talwin, Darvon
Indications:

- Narcotics and Synthetic Narcotic OD’s
- Coma of unknown etiology with respiratory depression and/or constricted pupils
Dosing/Routes:

- **Adults:** 0.4 mg with repeat dosing or dose escalation to 2 mg IVP/IN/IO/IM if initial response is inadequate until ventilations increase.
- **Peds:** 0.1 mg/kg IVP/IN/IO/IM up to 0.4 mg single dose.
How supplied:

- 2 mg in 2 ml
Contraindications:

• Hypersensitivity
Precautions:

• Use with caution patients dependent on narcotics or to infants of addicted mothers as it may cause withdrawal syndrome.

• Rapid reversal of opiate in patients who took combination drugs including stimulants may result in rapid tachycardias.

• Half life of Narcan often shorter than half life of narcotic; repeat dosing often required
Side effects/adverse reactions:

- Combativeness
- ↑ HR, ↑ B/P
- Vent, arrhythmias, asystole or seizures (opioid antagonists stimulate the sympathetic NS)
- Rare anaphylactic reactions have been reported after Narcan use

Ref: MWLCEMS Protocol and 2000 Mosby’s Nursing Drug Reference Book
Case Study

• You have been called to a 19 year old female patient who is comatose and has taken an unknown substance. She has constricted pupils and is breathing shallow. What is the initial dose of Narcan.
Answer

• Adults: 0.4 mg with repeat dosing or dose escalation to 2 mg IVP/IN/IO/IM if initial response is inadequate until ventilations increase
• Half way to the Hospital she starts to become less responsive once again and respiratory status is once again decreasing. You would?
Answer

• Re-dose of Narcan 0.4 mg until ventilations increase