

OPIOIDS

DRUG	
Fentanyl	Synthetic; short duration
Morphine	Histamine release; naturally occurring; longest duration for intrathecal (late respiratory depression)
Sufentanil	Most potent (most lipid soluble); synthetic
Meperidine	Least potent; histamine release; treats shivering; can cause tachycardia (atropine-like); synthetic; lowers seizure threshold; produces local anesthesia
Hydromorphone	Semisynthetic
Remifentanyl	Metabolized by nonspecific esterases; synthetic
Alfentanil	Smallest volume of distribution leading to shortest half-time of elimination; synthetic

Opioid side effects

Nausea and vomiting

Respiratory depression

Naloxone is the antagonist. It reverses pruritus, urinary retention, and nausea/vomiting.

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