Hydromorphone

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Opioid/narcotic analgesic (Dilaudid)

How it works: Binds opioid receptors — analgesic effect related to the mu-opioid receptor

USE IT FOR

- Severe pain
- Preferably for longer transport times (per page)

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypersensitivity
- Give slowly
- Watch for respiratory depression
- Have naloxone (Narcan) available
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **1-2 mg (route not stated on the original page)**
Peds: **[dose not stated in original text]**
Repeat: **Repeat every 10-15 minutes (per page)**

WATCH FOR

- Bradycardia
- Respiratory depression
- Euphoria

PEARLS

- Onset 5 min; peak 10-20 min; half-life 1-2 hours (per page)

Take Home Message:

Hydromorphone is the severe-pain opioid for longer transports — 1-2 mg slowly, naloxone at hand, repeat every 10-15 minutes.