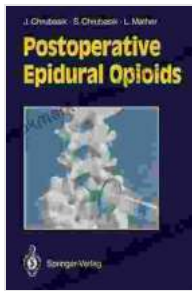


# Postoperative Epidural Opioids: A Comprehensive Guide to Their Use, Benefits, and Risks



Postoperative epidural opioids are a type of pain medication that is delivered directly into the epidural space, which is the area surrounding the spinal cord. They are used to provide pain relief after surgery, and they can be either short-acting or long-acting.



## Postoperative Epidural Opioids by Joachim Chrubasik

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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### How Do Postoperative Epidural Opioids Work?

Postoperative epidural opioids work by binding to opioid receptors in the spinal cord. This binding blocks the transmission of pain signals to the brain, which results in pain relief.

### Benefits of Postoperative Epidural Opioids

Postoperative epidural opioids have a number of benefits, including:

- \* They provide effective pain relief.
- \* They can reduce the need for other pain medications, such as opioids taken by mouth.
- \* They can help to reduce nausea and vomiting.
- \* They can shorten the length of hospital stay.

### Risks of Postoperative Epidural Opioids

Postoperative epidural opioids also have a number of risks, including:

- \* Respiratory depression: Opioids can slow down breathing, which can be dangerous.
- \* Nausea and vomiting: Opioids can cause nausea and vomiting.
- \* Urinary retention: Opioids can cause urinary retention.

Pruritus: Opioids can cause itching. \* Epidural hematoma: This is a rare but serious complication that can occur if blood collects in the epidural space.

### **Who is a Good Candidate for Postoperative Epidural Opioids?**

Postoperative epidural opioids are not appropriate for everyone. They are typically used for patients who are expected to have moderate to severe pain after surgery. They are also more likely to be used for patients who are at high risk for postoperative complications, such as respiratory depression or nausea and vomiting.

### **How Are Postoperative Epidural Opioids Administered?**

Postoperative epidural opioids are typically administered through a catheter that is inserted into the epidural space. The catheter is usually inserted by an anesthesiologist or pain management specialist. Once the catheter is in place, the medication can be delivered either continuously or intermittently.

### **How Long Do Postoperative Epidural Opioids Last?**

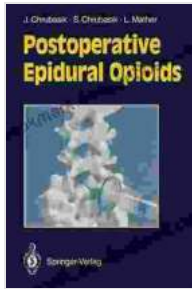
The duration of action of postoperative epidural opioids varies depending on the type of medication that is used. Short-acting opioids typically last for 4-6 hours, while long-acting opioids can last for 12-24 hours.

### **What to Expect After Receiving Postoperative Epidural Opioids**

After receiving postoperative epidural opioids, you will be monitored closely for any side effects. You may experience some pain relief within 30 minutes of receiving the medication. The pain relief may last for several hours.

Postoperative epidural opioids are a powerful tool for managing pain after surgery. They can provide effective pain relief and reduce the need for

other pain medications. However, they also have a number of risks, including respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, and urinary retention. It is important to discuss the benefits and risks of postoperative epidural opioids with your doctor before deciding whether or not to use them.



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