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Diacetylmorphine Hydrochloride

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Diacetylmorphine Hydrochloride*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C28958.

The hydrochloride salt of a diacetyl derivative of the opiate morphine, a naturally occurring alkaloid extracted from the seedpod of the Asian poppy (*Papaver* sp.). Once administered, diacetylmorphine (or diacetylmorphine) is rapidly hydrolyzed to 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) and then to the end-product morphine which binds to opiate receptors located throughout the mammalian nervous and gastrointestinal systems. Inducing a potent analgesia, the use of diacetylmorphine is often escalated due to a tolerance effect, resulting in abuse that is associated with fatal overdose, abortion, venous sclerosis, and opportunistic infections, among other adverse effects. (NCI04)