

ANALGESICS FOR LABOR

Have a discussion with your health care provider (HCP) about pharmaceutical options for pain management. Which medications will your provider prescribe if you ask for pain mediation during labor? Options vary by region and HCP, though the medications below are common. Remember that every person will react differently to the medications and what is effective for one person may not work for another. These medications are typically given via IV.

Nubain

- Nurses say this drug takes the peak off contractions. It makes contractions less intense.
- May make the patient sleepy, but not altered

Stadol

- Does not typically help with pain; It often makes the patient sleep between and sometimes during contractions
- Often makes patients altered

What are the time parameters in your community or at your hospital?

- Because babies receive a dose of these pain medications, many hospitals will not give these drugs in the Houston area if the patient is within 4 hours of delivering. In other areas, the medication may be available until the patient is 2 hours from delivery.
- Remember that it is not possible to determine with absolute accuracy when baby will be born.