What Should the Doctor Do?

A teenage boy is brought into the hospital emergency room after a skateboarding accident. He complains of pain in his left leg. The doctor orders an X-ray of his leg, which reveals a fracture in the tibia. Before the doctor can set the fracture and put a cast on the boy’s leg, he needs to relieve the patient’s pain. The doctor prescribes morphine.

On the basis of what you have learned about how drugs act in the body, how should the morphine be given to the patient? Should the morphine be given as a(n):

- pill
- shot
- inhalant

Consider each alternative and explain why the doctor should choose one method over another.