

**VANCOUVER HOSPITAL & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES CSU
DRUG DATA SHEET FOR SUBLINGUAL SUFENTANIL**

Drug Name
Sufentanil

Alternate Name
Sufenta

Strength
50 mcg/mL

Dosage Form
Ampuls of 1mL and 5mL
(supplied as parenteral form but
used sublingually)

Indications

- sufentanil may be used as a short duration analgesic for incident pain where a procedure such as moving a patient onto a stretcher, dressing changes, debridement, disimpaction, etc. is known to
 - cause pain but needs to be repeated on several occasions as part of normal care
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Pharmacology

- sufentanil is a very potent narcotic analgesic - about 5-10 times the potency of fentanyl. It is highly lipid-soluble and rapidly absorbed from mucosal membranes, with analgesic onset of action evident within 3-5 minutes. Effective duration of action is approximately 10-25 minutes.
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Dosage and Administration

- because of incomplete and variable cross-tolerance along with significant individual variation, there is no known consistent equivalent dose ratio to calculate when using sufentanil for incident pain. Therefore, incremental titration is required for each patient.
 - the usual dose range is 5 - 25 mcg (0.1-0.5 mL) sublingual pre-procedure; maximum dose is 50 mcg (1 mL) per episode. Wait at least 30 minutes before giving sufentanil for the next procedure.
 - instruct patient not to swallow for 2 minutes. Wait 3-5 minutes before attempting the procedure.
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Side Effects *

- drowsiness hypotension, dizziness, hypertension, chest wall rigidity, bradycardia
- < 1% incidence : tachycardia, chills, pruritus, nausea, respiratory depression, bronchospasm
- OVERDOSAGE: respiratory depression but highly unlikely in doses used sublingually; if serious respiratory depression occurs (less than 6/min or 8-10/min and patient not able to be roused):
 - 1) STAT call to MD
 - 2) O2 at 4 L/minute
 - 3) give naloxone (Narcan) 0.1-0.2 mg IV/SC STAT, then 0.1-0.2 mg increments every 10 minutes until respirations > 10/minute

* primarily from parenteral use

Monitoring

- sedation scale and respiratory rate every 5-10 minutes for 25 minutes after each dose
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