
AUTHORIZED BY: CPC Quality of Care Committee
ISSUE DATE: June 2002
CATEGORY: ACP Medications
TITLE: **Fentanyl Citrate**

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PAGE: 1 of 2

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- Other Names:**
- Sublimaze
- Classifications:**
- Analgesic
- Pharmacodynamics:**
- Opioid Analgesic
- Onset:**
- IV: Almost Immediate
 - IN: 5 -15 minutes
- Peak:**
- IV: 3 -15 minutes
 - IN: 15-21 minutes
- Duration:**
- IV/IN: 30 -60 minutes
- Indications:**
- Pain
- Contraindications:**
- Suspected ischemic chest pain
 - Allergy or sensitivity to fentanyl
 - Treatment of headache
 - Treatment of chronic pain
 - SBP drops by one-third or more of its initial value after fentanyl is administered
- Precautions:**
- Fentanyl should not be used in any combination with morphine unless authorized by a BHP via patch.
 - Caution in patients on MAO inhibitors
 - Hepatic and renal insufficiency
 - History of psychological or physical dependence
 - Use with caution in Demerol sensitivity
 - The maximum volume of IN fentanyl is 1mL per nare.
- Adverse Reactions:**
- Respiratory Depression, apnea, laryngospasm
 - Circulatory depression including orthostatic hypotension (increased incidence with rapid IV administration)
 - Cough reflex suppression
- Drug Interactions:**
- Opioid analgesics should be used with extreme caution in patients taking M.A.O.Is or within 14 days of such therapy.
 - May potentiate the effects of Coumadin

- Special Considerations:**
- Patients should be lying down when receiving Fentanyl IV.
 - Skeletal and thoracic muscle rigidity especially with rapid IV administration
 - 100 mcg of Fentanyl = 10 mg of Morphine
 - The IN route for fentanyl has a more rapid onset than that of SC morphine and can allow for a short onset of narcotic level analgesia in situations where an IV is unattainable.
 - Paramedics should consider starting with lower doses and administer narcotic analgesia in small aliquots q 3minutes until desired analgesia is achieved or the max single dose is reached.

- Preparations:**
- 100 µg in 2 ml ampoule

- References:**
- Ontario Provincial ALS Patient Care Standards Core Medical Directives (ACP) Version 4.5 – May, 2018
 - Ontario Provincial Companion Document for the Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards Version 4.5 – May, 2018
 - Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties 2019
 - Lexicomp, Fentanyl: Drug information. Retrieved Online from Up-to-Date on Mar 3rd, 2019

NOTE: The information contained herein does not supersede or negate the MoHLTC Provincial Medical Directives and should only serve as general information about the medication itself. For medication dosages, please refer to the current version of the Ontario Provincial ALS Patient Care Standards.