

FENTANYL Injection

Fentanyl (Fen-ta-nil)
50 micrograms/mL injection

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions about Fentanyl Injection. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you receiving Fentanyl Injection against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about receiving Fentanyl Injection ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Fentanyl is used for

Fentanyl Injection is used to provide short-term pain relief and to help anaesthesia when you have an operation. It can be given with Droleptan injection which is a tranquilliser.

Fentanyl Injection contains a medicine called fentanyl. It belongs to a group of medicines known as narcotic analgesics. Fentanyl relieves pain by blocking the nerves in the brain that recognise pain messages from the body.

Your doctor may have prescribed fentanyl for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Fentanyl may be addictive. Addiction is unlikely in patients who receive it under medical supervision.

Before you are given Fentanyl

When you must not be given Fentanyl

Fentanyl Injection should not be used:

- if you have an allergy to Fentanyl Injection, other strong pain killers or any of the ingredients. See **Product Description** at the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients
- if you suffer from asthma or if you are particularly prone to breathing difficulties (for example, in the case of head injuries, coma or brain tumour)

Fentanyl Injection Goldshield Healthcare (NZ)

- if you have taken a type of medicine known as monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) inhibitors within the last 14 days. These include phenelzine and tranylcypromine (for depression) and selegiline (for Parkinson's disease)
- if you suffer from a condition known as myasthenia gravis which causes constant weakness of muscles
- in children less than two years old.

Fentanyl Injection should not be used if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering. It should not be used beyond the expiry date (month and year) printed on the pack.

Before you are given Fentanyl Injection

You must tell your doctor if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- are breast-feeding or wish to breast-feed
- have lung diseases or breathing problems
- have a slow or irregular heart beat
- have or have ever had kidney or liver diseases
- are an alcoholic
- have an underactive thyroid gland.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you are given Fentanyl Injection.

Your doctor will decide whether or not to treat you with Fentanyl Injection or whether to adjust the dose or alter your treatment.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines you can buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

In particular, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

- medicines which make you feel drowsy or slow to react, such as sleeping tablets, tranquillisers or strong pain killers
- a group of medicines called monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) These include phenelzine and tranylcypromine (for depression) and selegiline (for Parkinson's disease). These medicines should be stopped 14 days before Fentanyl Injection is given.
- ritonavir (used to treat AIDS).

These medicines may be affected by Fentanyl Injection or may affect how well Fentanyl Injection works. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

Effects on driving and operating machinery

Fentanyl Injection can affect your alertness and ability to drive and operate machinery. Do not drive or operate machinery until your doctor says it is safe.

Effects of alcohol

Fentanyl Injection can increase the effects of alcohol.

Using Fentanyl Injection

How it is given

Fentanyl Injection is given by your doctor as an injection into a muscle or vein. Your doctor will decide how much Fentanyl Injection you need. This will depend on your age, body weight, medical conditions and history.

Adults

The usual dose of Fentanyl Injection ranges from 25 micrograms to 100 micrograms depending on what it is being used for. Repeat doses may be given in some cases. Doses greater than 200 micrograms are only for use in anaesthesia, as higher doses may cause difficulty in breathing.

If you are elderly, you may be given a lower dose of Fentanyl Injection.

Children 2 to 12 years old

The usual dose ranges from 20 micrograms to 30 micrograms per 10 kg of body weight.

Fentanyl Injection is not recommended for use in children under 2 years.

If you are given too much (overdose)

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- muscle stiffness, breathing difficulties that may cause your skin to turn blue. This is followed by unconsciousness.
- decrease in heart rate
- low blood pressure
- a fall in body temperature.

In such cases, immediate medical care is required.

While you are given Fentanyl Injection

Things you must do

- Always follow your doctor's instructions carefully.
- Tell your doctor if you become pregnant.
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are about to start taking a new medicine.

Things you must not do

- Do not use Fentanyl Injection to treat any other complaint unless your doctor says so.
- Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

If you do not understand the instructions provided with this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

Side Effects

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some side effects. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you experience any of the following:

- dizziness
- low blood pressure which may cause headache, weakness or dizziness
- blurred vision
- nausea, vomiting
- excessive sweating
- itching
- an unusual sense of well being.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following as you may need urgent medical care:

- difficulty in breathing
- muscle stiffness or sudden muscle twitches
- slow heart beat
- a feeling of choking which is caused by the spasm of the muscles around the voice box
- allergic reactions such as skin rash and swelling of the face, neck or throat.

When a sedating medicine such as Droleptan is used with Fentanyl Injection, the following can occur:

- chills, shivering
- restlessness
- seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there after an operation
- short periods of mental depression
- uncontrolled movements of the body or eyes which may occur up to 24 hours after an operation.
- high blood pressure
- drowsiness.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects.

After you have been given Fentanyl Injection

Storage

- Keep Fentanyl Injection in the pack until use.
- Keep Fentanyl Injection in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.
- Keep your medicines where children cannot reach them. A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres (1.5 m) above the ground is a good place to store medicines.
- Do not store Fentanyl Injection, or any medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave medicines in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Product Description

What it looks like

Fentanyl Injection is a clear, colourless sterile solution. It is available in 2 mL and 10 mL clear glass ampoules. The ampoules are available in boxes of 10.

Ingredients

Fentanyl Injection contains 50 micrograms of fentanyl per mL.

The 2 mL ampoule contains 100 micrograms of fentanyl.

The 10 mL ampoule contains 500 micrograms of fentanyl

The solution also contains sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and water for injection.

Sponsor

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