



FENTANYL (patch)

fen-ta-nil

What does it do?

Fentanyl patches are used to relieve strong pain.

How should you use it?

Use *fentanyl* patches regularly as directed. Apply the patch to a clean, dry, hairless area of skin every 3 days. When you have removed the old patch, apply the new one in a different place to prevent irritating your skin. Do not cut the patch.

What if you forget a dose?

If you forget to change the patch, remove the old patch and apply a new one as soon as possible.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *fentanyl* including:

- sedating antihistamines (e.g. Phenergan®)
- cough suppressants (e.g. Duro-Tuss®, Benadryl Dry Forte®)
- pain relief medicines containing codeine (e.g. Panadeine®)
- some migraine medicines, such as sumatriptan (e.g. Sumagran Active®) or zolmitriptan (e.g. Zomig®)

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. valerian) or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Slow or shallow breathing, hard to wake up, change in heartbeat	Tell your doctor immediately
Constipation Confusion, agitation, hallucinations, mood swings	Tell your doctor
Drowsiness, tiredness or weakness, headache, trouble sleeping Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach upset Dry mouth or throat, changes in vision, trouble peeing Swollen feet or legs Sweating Red or itchy skin where patch has been applied	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have lung, bowel, liver, kidney or heart problems or have had a recent head injury.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- If *fentanyl* patches are not relieving your pain contact your health professional – your dose may need changing.
- *Fentanyl* patches may be used with other pain relievers (e.g. morphine, oxycodone).
- While wearing the *fentanyl* patch avoid exposing it to heat (e.g. heat pads, hot water bottles, electric blankets or spa pools).
- Dispose of *fentanyl* patches by folding the patch in half with the sticky sides together. Make sure to dispose of it out of the reach of children.
- *Fentanyl* may be addictive with long-term use.