

Buprenorphine patches

Pain Management Patient Information Leaflet

Introduction

Welcome to The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust pain management service. This leaflet will provide you and your relatives with information about a medication called buprenorphine. It includes what it is for, how it is taken and its benefits and risks.

This leaflet is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor, but as a guide to be used in conjunction with what is discussed.

What are buprenorphine patches?

Buprenorphine is a strong painkiller which is prescribed for moderately severe pain. It is a form of pain relief known medically as an opioid. It works on your nervous system and brain to reduce the way you feel pain.

We use it in the form of patches. Brand names of the patches include Transtec or BuTrans. The patches are adhesive and are usually worn on the upper body, often the arm, chest or back. They release painkiller slowly and evenly over several days.

What are the benefits?

Buprenorphine patches are used to treat moderate to severe pain that has not responded to basic painkillers.

What are the risks?

Buprenorphine can cause side effects. These may include a rash, nausea, being sick, dizziness, drowsiness, constipation or diarrhoea. Less commonly, it may cause confusion and breathing difficulties. Please read the leaflet enclosed with your medication.

You must be careful if you are driving or operating machinery while wearing the patches and for up to 24 hours after stopping them, due to possible side effects of dizziness or drowsiness. Drinking alcohol while wearing the patch can make you feel drowsy.

Important: do not drive or operate heavy machinery if you feel drowsy.

How do I take it?

The patch should be applied to flat, non-hairy, clean and dry skin where there are no scars. Please note: you must keep patch away from direct heat.

There are several patch strengths available (5 mcg, 10 mcg, 20 mcg, 35 mcg, 52.5 mcg and 70 mcg). Your consultant will recommend the best strength for you, depending on your previous doses of painkillers and your medical condition.

It can take up to 12 hours to have pain relief from the patch.

You can continue to take your current pain relief medication during this time. Your consultant will give you advice about this.

Your patch will need to stay in place for three days (for Transtec) or seven days (for BuTrans). There are some painkilling medications that you can take as well as having the patch.

Please note:

- Do not use more patches than the consultant has prescribed for you.
- Do not stop using them suddenly.

Keep this medicine out of the reach of children. Used patches still contain some buprenorphine, so keep used patches away from children.

What if I have problems?

You can contact the clinical nurse specialists in the pain management team (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) by:

- Calling **01384 244735** and leaving a message on the answerphone or
- Ringing the switchboard number 01384 456111 and asking them to bleep the number 5064

Out of these hours, you will need to contact your GP or NHS 111.

Can I find out more?

The following website has more information about managing pain:

British Pain Society

<https://www.britishpainsociety.org/british-pain-society-publications/patient-publications/>

The following website has information about medications and driving:

www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/pain-management/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email dgft.patient.information@nhs.net

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔