TITLE: Fentanyl versus Morphine for Acute Pain: Comparative Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 30 April 2010

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of fentanyl versus morphine when given intravenously to treat acute pain?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including Medline and Embase, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2010), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between January 1, 2005 and April 19, 2010. No filters were applied to limit retrieval. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, randomized controlled trials are presented first. These are followed by controlled clinical trials and observational studies.

One randomized controlled trial and one controlled clinical trial were identified regarding the comparative clinical effectiveness of fentanyl versus morphine when given intravenously to treat acute pain. One observational study was identified regarding comparative safety. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, or meta-analyses were identified.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized controlled trials

Controlled clinical trials

Observational studies
   Note: See table 2, page 660 for opioid adverse reaction incidence rates.

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