TITLE: The Use of Transdermal Buprenorphine in Adults: Safety

DATE: 20 July 2015

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the clinical evidence on the harms associated with transdermal buprenorphine, including misuse and abuse?

KEY FINDINGS

Three systematic reviews, four randomized controlled trials, and four non-randomized studies were identified regarding the safety of transdermal buprenorphine patches.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to safety data. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and July 14, 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.
### Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Adults using transdermal buprenorphine prescribed and recreationally</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Transdermal buprenorphine (e.g. BuTrans)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Any comparator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Safety: adverse events, deaths, hospitalizations, rates of overdose, abuse or misuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

Three systematic reviews, four randomized controlled trials, and four non-randomized studies were identified regarding the safety of transdermal buprenorphine patches. No relevant health technology assessments were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

### Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

### Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


### Randomized Controlled Trials


Non-Randomized Studies


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review Articles


Additional References