

Sublingual opioids: alfentanil, fentanyl and sufentanil - Do you use them?

September – November 2017

Number of responses = 96

1) Where do you work? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Inside the UK	50	52%
Outside the UK	47	49%

2) In the last 12 months, have you used alfentanil 500microgram/mL solution for injection SL? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes, regularly	2	2%
	1, Inside the UK 1, Outside the UK	
Yes, on occasion	4	4%
	2, Inside the UK 2, Outside the UK	
Yes, but rarely	3	3%
	2, Inside the UK 1, Outside the UK	
No	35	36%
	21, Inside the UK 13, Outside the UK	
Have never used	54	56%
	24, Inside the UK 30, Outside the UK	

3) In the last 12 months, have you used alfentanil 140microgram/spray (5mg/5mL) special order product SL? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes, regularly	1	1%
	1, Inside the UK	
Yes, on occasion	1	1%
	1, Outside the UK	
Yes, but rarely	2	2%
	2, Inside the UK	
No	38	40%
	22, Inside the UK 15, Outside the UK	
Have never used	54	56%
	24, Inside the UK 30, Outside the UK	

4) In the last 12 months, have you used fentanyl 50microgram/mL *solution for injection* SL? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes, regularly	3	3%
	3, Outside the UK	
Yes, on occasion	1	1%
	1, Outside the UK	
Yes, but rarely	3	3%
	3, Outside the UK	
No	49	51%
	27, Inside the UK 21, Outside the UK	
Have never used	40	42%
	23, Inside the UK 17, Outside the UK	

5) In the last 12 months, have you used sufentanil 50microgram/mL *solution for injection* SL? (one_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes, regularly	1	1%
	1, Outside the UK	
Yes, on occasion	2	2%
	2, Outside the UK	
Yes, but rarely	1	1%
	1, Outside the UK	
No	40	42%
	23, Inside the UK 16, Outside the UK	
Have never used	54	56%
	27, Inside the UK 27, Outside the UK	

6) Further comments (freetext)

Comments from UK members:

We avoid using the fast-acting fentanyl products as they are such a niche product; they are so difficult to use. Patients struggle to know when to use them, or over use them & become addicted

With the availability of a number of preparations of transmucosal fentanyl citrate, in a wide variety of strengths there seems to be little need to use injectable formulations sublingually

Have more or less stopped doing this. Where we need SL/Buccal we use commercial products but these we only use rarely

Within the inpatient hospice, we use SC alfentanil for episodic pain because of its rapid clearance. If we are discharging people home, we would then use SL alfentanil

I can't think of any patients who would tolerate the solution who couldn't use a mucosal tablet - even if the mouth is dry a sip of water or quick spray of Glandosane is usually sufficient

Use Abstral for sublingual use

Occasionally use Abstral SL. Much better tolerated than Effentora (Abstral seems to dissolve almost instantly, but Effentora fizzes for ages)

Tend to use Abstral not the injectable solutions

Using Astral as buccal mucosal delivery fentanyl

We use the licensed Abstral products
In the last 12 months, I had one patient who was obese and became over-opiated - most likely due to repeated Abstral SL. I wonder if alfentanil SL would be less likely to accumulate in adipose tissue?
I use fentanyl SL tablets e.g. Abstral or alfentanil subcutaneously
I do use SL fentanyl preparations such as Abstral
Abstral SL has been used rather than these solutions
Have only used alfentanil and fentanyl for injection by s/c route in the community setting where I work.
Comments from non-UK members:
I work in New Zealand and some of our patients would benefit from transmucosal fentanyl products if they were available
Sufentanil is the most potent, least volume. Preferred opioid.
In Slovakia we have SL fentanyl (Lunaldin), and buccal fentanyl (Breakyl and Effentora), we do not need your solution of fentanyl
I still prescribe nasal fentanyl, which could be used oral/ SL as well as a pharmacy made drug with any concentration, the patient is in need instead of a commercial product
We have SL fentanyl lozenges and orodispersible tablets easily available in Australia which is subsidised by the government. In New Zealand I have used fentanyl ampoules sublingually but not with a lot of success
Home care settings, fentanyl only when renal failure or allergy to morphine
Use licensed S/L alfentanil
I use fentanyl citrate buccal
We do not have alfentanil or sufentanil in our service, not sure if it's available in Malaysia
Commercially available sublingual fentanyls have superseded the use of fentanyl and sufentanil SL (or intranasal sufentanil solution) in our practice
Solutions no - have access to buccal fentanyl lozenge preparation
Canada: only used sufentanil SL pre-emptively prior to mobilizations when the usual p.r.n. narcotic is too slow to act or has unacceptable side effects
I'm not very fond of Fentanyl in general, so I hardly ever use it
We use fentanyl for SL (Abstral) available in Sweden.