

FENTORA®

Orally Disintegrating Tablets

Fentanyl (as citrate)

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

WARNING

Limitations of use

Fentora should only be used when your doctor decides that other treatment options are not able to effectively manage your pain or you cannot tolerate them.

Hazardous and harmful use

Fentora poses risks of abuse, misuse and addiction which can lead to overdose and death.

Your doctor may see you regularly during treatment.

Life threatening respiratory depression

Fentora can cause life-threatening or fatal breathing problems (slow, shallow, unusual or no breathing), even when used as recommended. These problems can occur at any time during use, but the risk is higher when first starting Fentora and after a dose increase, if you are older, or have an existing problem with your lungs. Your doctor will monitor you and change the dose as appropriate.

Use of other medicines while using Fentora

Using Fentora with other medicines that can make you feel drowsy such as sleeping tablets (e.g. benzodiazepines), other pain relievers, antihistamines, antidepressants, antipsychotics, gabapentinoids (e.g. gabapentin and pregabalin), cannabis and alcohol may result in severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma and death. Your doctor will minimise the dose and duration of use; and monitor you for signs and symptoms of breathing difficulties and sedation. You must not drink alcohol while using Fentora.

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Fentora. It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of your taking Fentora against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking Fentora, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may want to read it again.

What Fentora is used for

Fentora contains a medicine called fentanyl citrate. It is a pain-relieving medicine known as an opioid, which is used to treat breakthrough pain in adult patients with cancer who are already taking other opioid pain medicines for their persistent (around-the-clock) cancer pain.

Breakthrough pain is additional sudden pain that occurs in spite of

you having taken your usual opioid pain-relieving medicines.

Opioid medicines are those that contain active ingredients such as morphine, fentanyl citrate, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, pethidine or buprenorphine.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Fentora orally disintegrating tablets have been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another use.

Fentora is only available on a doctor's prescription.

Before you take it

Fentora is not suitable for everyone.

When you must not take it

Do not take Fentora if:

- you suffer from short-term pain or chronic pain other than breakthrough pain, such as pain from injuries or surgery, headaches or migraines.
- you have not been prescribed opioid pain medicine ever.
- you have not been prescribed opioid pain medicine every day on a regular schedule, for at least one week, to control your persistent pain. If you have not been using these medicines you must not use Fentora, because it may increase the risk that breathing could become dangerously slow and/or shallow, or even stop.
- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to fentanyl, or any of the other ingredients of Fentora (see list at the end of this leaflet).
- you suffer from severe breathing problems or severe obstructive lung conditions
- you are also taking, or used in the last 2 weeks, medicines referred to as Monoamine Oxidase (MAO) Inhibitors.

Do not take Fentora after the expiry date shown on the blister package label and the carton.

Do not take Fentora if the packaging seems to have been opened or is damaged.

Things to be careful of

Addiction

You can become addicted to Fentora even if you take it exactly as prescribed. Fentora may become habit forming causing mental and physical dependence. If abused it may become less able to reduce pain.

Dependence

As with all other opioid containing products, your body may become used to you taking Fentora. Taking it may result in physical dependence. Physical dependence means that you may experience withdrawal symptoms if you stop taking Fentora suddenly, so it is important to take it exactly as directed by your doctor.

Tolerance

Tolerance to Fentora may develop, which means that the effect of the medicine may decrease. If this happens, more may be needed to maintain the same effect.

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. If you stop having this medicine suddenly, your pain may worsen and you may experience some or all of the following withdrawal symptoms:

- nervousness, restlessness, agitation, trouble sleeping or anxiety
- body aches, weakness or stomach cramps
- loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- increased heart rate, breathing rate or pupil size
- watery eyes, runny nose, chills or yawning
- increased sweating.

DO NOT use Fentora during labour and delivery.

It is important that you do not exceed your recommended dose.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if:

- you have any allergies
- you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant
- you are breast feeding or planning to breast feed
- your other opioid pain medicine you take for your persistent

(around-the-clock) cancer pain is not stabilized yet

- you are suffering from any condition that has an effect on your breathing (such as asthma, wheezing, or shortness of breath).
- You have a head injury
- You have exceptionally slow heart rate or other heart problems
- You have liver or kidney problems, as these organs have an effect on the way in which your system breaks down the medicine.
- You have low amount of fluid in the circulation or low blood pressure
- You have a history of addiction or substance abuse either personally or within your family
- You experience an unexplained increase in pain.
- You feel anxious, irritable or have sudden mood swings, these could be signs of addiction
- You notice any changes in hormones such as prolactin, testosterone and cortisol from blood tests.

Your doctor should monitor you for these signs while on treatment. They may also conduct blood tests from time to time to ensure you are responding as expected to treatment.

These organs have an effect on the way in which your system breaks down the medicine.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food store.

Take special care with Fentora if:

- you are taking any medicines which might normally have a sedative effect (make you sleepy), such as:

- sleeping pills
- medicines to treat anxiety
- antihistamines
- tranquilisers.
- **Other strong analgesics used to manage pain such as morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, pethidine or buprenorphine.**
- **you are taking any medicines or other substances that might have an effect on the way in which your body breaks down Fentora, such as:**
 - medicines used to treat fungal infections, such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, and fluconazole
 - medicines that help control HIV infection, such as ritonavir, nelfinavir, amprenavir, and fosamprenavir
 - certain antibiotics such as clarithromycin and erythromycin
 - medicines used for severe nausea
 - medicines used to treat high blood pressure or heart disease, such as diltiazem and verapamil
 - medicines used for severe depression known as selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors (SNRIs) or have done so in the past 2 weeks
 - muscle relaxants (such as cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone)
 - medicines used for severe depression called monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or have done so in the past 2 weeks

Using FENTORA with food or drink

- Fentora may be used before or after, but not during, meals. You

may drink some water before using Fentora to help moisten your mouth, but you should not drink or eat anything while taking the medicine.

- You should not drink grapefruit juice while using Fentora because it may affect the way your body breaks down Fentora
- **Do not drink alcohol while using Fentora. It can increase the risk of experiencing dangerous side effects**

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Fentora should not be used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Breastfeeding should not be restarted until at least 6 days after the last administration of Fentora, unless you have discussed this with your doctor.

Driving and using machines

- **You should discuss with your doctor whether it is safe for you to drive, or operate machinery after taking Fentora.**

Do not drive or operate machinery if you: are feeling sleepy or dizzy; have blurred or double vision; or have difficulty in concentrating. It is important you know how you react to Fentora before driving or operating machinery.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Fentora

Each tablet of Fentora 100 micrograms contains 10 mg of sodium. Each tablet of Fentora 200 micrograms, Fentora 400 micrograms, Fentora 600 micrograms and Fentora 800 micrograms contains 20 mg of sodium. You should take this into consideration and seek advice from your doctor.

How to take it

Do not take Fentora to treat any condition other than that directed by your doctor.

Fentora orally disintegrating tablets are for buccal use. When you place a tablet in your mouth, it dissolves and the medicine is absorbed through the lining of your mouth, into the blood system. Taking the medicine in this way allows it to be absorbed quickly to relieve your breakthrough pain.

How many to take

When you first start Fentora, your doctor will work with you to find the dose that will relieve your breakthrough pain. This process is called the titration process. Please refer to the titration flowchart in the Patient's guide for Fentora section of the leaflet for more information.

It is very important that you use Fentora exactly as the doctor tells you.

The initial dose is 100 micrograms. During determination of your right dose, your doctor may instruct you to take more than one tablet per episode. If your breakthrough pain is not relieved after 30 minutes, use only 1 more tablet of Fentora during the titration period.

Ask your doctor if you are not sure about the right dose or if you have any questions about taking Fentora.

You should start to feel some pain relief quickly while you are taking Fentora.

Contact your doctor if your right dose of Fentora does not relieve your breakthrough pain. Your doctor will decide if your dose needs to be changed.

It is recommended that you wait at least 4 hours before treating another episode of breakthrough pain with Fentora. The frequency may be increased if instructed by your doctor.

You must tell your doctor immediately if you are using Fentora more than four times per day, as the doctor may wish to change your medicine for your persistent pain.

Once your persistent pain has been controlled, your doctor may need to change your dose of Fentora further.

For the most effective relief, let your doctor know about your pain and how Fentora is working for you so that the dose can be changed if needed.

Do not change doses of Fentora or your other pain medicines on your own. Any change in dosage must be prescribed and monitored by your doctor.

If you are not sure about the right dose, or if you have questions about taking this medicine, you should contact your doctor.

DO NOT TAKE MORE THAN THE DOSE YOUR DOCTOR HAS RECOMMENDED.

Change in dosage must be directed and monitored by your doctor.

How to take it

1. Open the blister only when you are ready to use the tablet.

The tablet must be used immediately once removed from the blister.

Separate one of the blister units from the blister card by tearing apart at the perforations.

Bend the blister unit along the line where indicated.

Peel the blister backing to expose the tablet. Do NOT attempt to push the tablet through the blister, because this can damage the tablet.

Remove the tablet from the blister unit and immediately place the entire tablet near a molar tooth between the gum and the cheek (as shown in the picture).



Do not attempt to crush or split the tablet.

Sometimes your doctor may tell you to place the tablet under your tongue instead.



Do not bite, suck, chew, or swallow the tablet, as this will result in less pain relief than when taken as directed.



- The tablet should be left between the cheek and gum until dissolved, which usually takes approximately 14 to 25 minutes.
- You may feel a gentle bubbling sensation between your cheek and gum as the tablet dissolves.
- In case of irritation, you may change the placement of the tablet on the gum.
- After 30 minutes, if pieces of the tablet remain, they may be swallowed with a glass of water.

Always write the date and time each time you take Fentora tablet. A table called the 'Titration Dose Record' and

'Maintenance Dosing Record' in the leaflet located inside the box will help you record this information.

This will help you and your doctors monitor your pain level and if the dose is right for you.

Fentora contains no added flavours. You may sense a slight taste, or you may notice nothing at all.

How long to take it

You should not normally stop taking Fentora for breakthrough pain unless your doctor tells you to.

If you are taking high doses of Fentora and feel that the pain is getting worse with time please speak to your doctor.

Tell your doctor if you feel unwell during your course of treatment.

If you take too many Fentora units (overdose)

If you or someone else receive too much (overdose), and experience one or more of the symptoms below, immediately call triple zero (000) for an ambulance. Keep the person awake by talking to them or gently shaking them every now and then. You should follow the above steps even if someone other than you has accidentally used Fentora that was prescribed for you. If someone takes an overdose they may experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- **Slow, unusual or difficult breathing**
- **Drowsiness, dizziness or unconsciousness**
- **Slow or weak heartbeat**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Convulsions or fits**

If you think you or someone else may have used too much Fentora, you should immediately:

- **telephone your doctor, or**
- **the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) or**
- **go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital**

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

When seeking medical attention, take this leaflet and remaining medicine with you to show the doctor. Also tell them about any other medicines or alcohol which have been taken.

The most common side effects are feeling sleepy, sick or dizzy. If you begin to feel very dizzy, or very sleepy before the tablet is completely dissolved, rinse your mouth with water and spit the remaining pieces of the tablet into a sink or toilet right away. Call another person to help you.

A serious side effect of Fentora is slow and/or shallow breathing. This can occur if your dose of this medicine is too high or if you take too much Fentora. You and your carer should discuss this side effect with your doctor immediately.

What to do if a child or adult accidentally takes Fentora

If you think someone has accidentally taken Fentora follow these steps:

1. If the person is asleep, wake them up by calling their name and shaking their arm or shoulder.
2. CALL FOR EMERGENCY HELP.
3. While waiting for emergency help:
 - if the person seems to be breathing slowly, prompt them to breathe every 5-10 seconds
 - if the person has stopped breathing give mouth to mouth resuscitation until help arrives.

While you are taking it

Things you must do

Make sure that all of your doctors and pharmacists know about your

use of Fentora. Remind them if any new medicines are about to be started, including any medicines that you may purchase without a prescription.

Things that you must not do

Do not use Fentora to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

It may not be safe to use Fentora for another complaint.

Do not give Fentora to someone else even if their symptoms are the same.

Fentora should only be used by the person for whom it was prescribed. It may not be safe for another person to use Fentora.

Do not stop using Fentora unless your doctor advises you to do so. If you have been using Fentora for a long period of time but stop using it suddenly without your doctor's advice, you may experience withdrawal symptoms (such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, anxiety and shivering). Seek your doctor's advice if you experience these symptoms.

If you become pregnant whilst taking Fentora, you should stop taking it and see your doctor immediately.

Side Effects

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some side effects. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you experience any of the following:

- headache
- nausea/vomiting
- feeling unwell

- weakness, dizziness
- sleepiness, sedation
- constipation
- anxiety.

If you feel excessively dizzy, sleepy or otherwise ill while taking Fentora, remove the Fentora unit and contact your doctor for further directions on using Fentora.

Tell your doctor immediately, or get someone to take you to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- becoming very sleepy
- having slow or shallow breathing
- sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the lips, tongue or throat, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing.

Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders including central sleep apnoea (CSA) and sleep-related hypoxemia (insufficient oxygen intake).

Make sure that you are with someone who can keep you awake by talking to you or gently shaking you every now and then.

Whilst using the Fentora tablet you may experience irritation, pain, gum bleeding or an ulcer at the site of application.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed in this leaflet may also occur in some patients.

After using it

Storage

Keep Fentora in the original package until it is time to take the dose.

If you take Fentora out of its blister package, it may not keep as well.

Do not use it if the blister package has been damaged or opened before you are ready to use it.

Keep Fentora in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car on hot or cold days.

Heat, cold and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Fentora orally disintegrating tablets must be kept out of the reach of children.

The pain-relieving medicine in Fentora is very strong and could be life-threatening if taken accidentally by a child.

A locked cupboard at least one- and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Product description

What Fentora looks like

The orally disintegrating tablets are flat-faced, round, bevelled-edge tablets, embossed one side with a "C" and on the other side with "1" for FENTORA 100 micrograms, with "2" for FENTORA 200 micrograms, with "4" for FENTORA 400 micrograms, with "6" for FENTORA 600 micrograms, with "8" for FENTORA 800 micrograms.

FENTORA is supplied in individually sealed, child-resistant blister packs.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

The active ingredient is fentanyl, present in the product as fentanyl citrate.

Inactive ingredients:

- mannitol
- sodium starch glycollate type A
- sodium hydrogen carbonate
- sodium carbonate
- citric acid
- magnesium stearate

Manufacturer/Supplier

Fentora is manufactured in the USA.

Supplied in Australia by:

Teva Pharma Australia Pty Ltd

Level 1, 37 Epping Rd

Macquarie Park

NSW 2113

Telephone: 1800 288 382

Australian Registration Numbers:

Fentora 100 micrograms:

AUST R 218435

Fentora 200 micrograms:

AUST R 218437

Fentora 400 micrograms:

AUST R 218433

Fentora 600 micrograms:

AUST R 218434

Fentora 800 micrograms:

AUST R 218436

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