

## **Fentanyl Patch Overdose**

Fentanyl is sold by such brand names as Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora, Sublimaze and Instanyl. It is a synthetic narcotic commonly used to treat chronic breakthrough pain and is commonly used in the form of a patch that is worn on the skin where the pain-relieving medication is delivered into the blood stream transdermally. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine. Due to its highly addictive properties, it is a regulated Schedule II Class drug in the United States.

Overdoses of Fentanyl happen upon the rapid release of the drug into the body. Factors that can cause the rapid release of Fentanyl and lead to a potential overdose include heat, inappropriate use, and patch defects.

In the past few years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been investigating over 100 deaths attributed to such overdoses. Juries across the country have found Johnson & Johnson, one of the manufacturers of the transdermal patch (marketed and sold as Duragesic©) liable for the death of those that suffered a Fentanyl overdose because of a defect in the Duragesic patch. The defect in this patch was believed to be some mechanism that permitted the drug to leak out of the patch and thereby deliver too large and fast a dose of pain medication, resulting in a lethal dose into the patient's system resulting in fatal respiratory and/or cardiac arrest or other, serious physical reactions.

## **Withdrawal & Other Duragesic Patch Side Effects**

Since the Duragesic patch contains a very powerful narcotic (80 times more potent than morphine), its use can cause both physical and psychological dependency in a short period of time. When a patient becomes dependent on the drug, they may suffer severe withdrawals when they stop taking it. Some of the symptoms of Duragesic withdrawal include:

- \* Anxiety
- \* Severe depression
- \* Tremors
- \* Abdominal cramps
- \* Mood swings

Other serious, potentially life threatening Duragesic patch side effects include heart arrhythmia, impaired breathing, low blood pressure, and coma. The risk of experiencing these dangerous Duragesic patch side effects increases when the patch is used in combination with other drugs that affect the nervous system, such as muscle relaxants, sleep aids, anti-psychotics, and other narcotic painkillers.

If you or a loved one or other close individual have been affected by the side effects of Reglan, contact my office for a FREE consultation either through the website Contact Form, via phone (267) 241-2475 or Skype™ (Roseann E. Weisblatt).

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (Office for National Statistics 2002).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the need to ensure that they are able to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the development of new housing schemes, the provision of services to support older people in their homes, and the development of new models of care.

One of the key challenges is to ensure that older people are able to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. This requires a range of services, including housing, health care, and social care. The challenge is to ensure that these services are coordinated and integrated, so that older people can receive the support they need in a timely and effective way.

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