



Just the Facts

Intranasal Fentanyl

Why am I getting this?

Sometimes your pain is so bad that we need to give you a medicine that will work right away. Medicines that you take by mouth or that need an intravenous tube (IV) take longer to make you feel better.

Today, we are using a medicine called fentanyl to treat your severe pain. We will give it to you as a nose spray. You will usually only get one or two doses during your treatment.

How will you give this to me?

We will give you this medicine by spraying it into your nose. This takes just a few seconds. The spray can sometimes leave a bitter taste in your mouth for a minute.



What can I expect?

You will have less pain in 5 minutes. In an hour, your pain will be much better.

After you get the medicine, you might feel sleepy or nauseous, have a bad taste in your mouth, breathe more slowly, or feel itchy. These effects don't last very long, and if they are bothering you, we can treat them.

Your doctor and nurse will do other things to help your pain for when the fentanyl wears off. You might get other medicines in an intravenous tube (IV) or by mouth for your pain. You can ask for things like ice packs or a warm blanket. You can also distract yourself from your pain by doing things like playing a game on a phone or tablet, listening to music, or talking to your parent.

Your doctor or nurse will teach you how to manage your pain when it's time to go home.

Is this the same drug as illicit fentanyl?

NO. Illicit or street fentanyl is made in unsafe conditions and can be mixed with other dangerous things that can make you very sick.

When fentanyl is prescribed to you by a doctor, it was made in a safe medical lab, and you are given only the smallest amount that is needed help your pain and still be safe.



Am I going to overdose or get addicted to fentanyl?

Safety is a priority when treating your pain. When fentanyl is prescribed to you by a doctor, it is extremely unlikely that you will overdose because healthcare providers make sure you are given the right amount of the medicine before you receive it. We will monitor you for safety. If there was an unexpected overdose, we have reversing medicines like Naloxone to help right away.

One or two doses of prescribed fentanyl for severe pain should not cause you to become addicted to it. If you are worried about substance use disorder in yourself or your family, talk to your doctor or nurse. They can help answer your questions.



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