

Giving fentanyl lozenges - medicine for pain relief

Why does my child need to take a fentanyl lozenge?

Fentanyl lozenges are a strong medicine that works quickly to relieve pain.

When should a fentanyl lozenge be used?

They are used for children who are already taking morphine or similar medicines but still get sudden, severe pain. The lozenges are helpful for pain that starts quickly and needs fast relief.

How much fentanyl should I give?

Fentanyl lozenges come in different doses starting at 200 micrograms. The dose will be prescribed based on a person's pain and how well the medicine works. You can give a second lozenge 15 minutes after finishing the first lozenge if pain is not better. Do not give a third lozenge without speaking to your healthcare team.

How to give a fentanyl lozenge?

- A fact sheet comes with the fentanyl lozenges.
- Your child can take a small sip of water before using the lozenge to moisten their mouth. They should not eat or drink while using the lozenge.
- Your child should place the lozenge between their gum and cheek. They should use the stick to keep moving the lozenge around their mouth, along the cheeks. Twirl the stick often. This should be done quite slowly, so it takes about 15 minutes to fully dissolve. If this is done too quickly, more of the drug will be swallowed and it will not work as well.
- The lozenge will slowly dissolve and be absorbed into the body.
- Your child should not bite, suck or chew the lozenge.
- Do not use the lozenge if your child has a sore mouth or mouth ulcers.

When will it work?

Pain relief should begin within 5 to 15 minutes after starting the lozenge.

What side effects might my child have with fentanyl lozenges?

Your child should always be supervised while using a fentanyl lozenge.

If your child has too much fentanyl, they may:

- Feel sick or vomit
- Breathe more slowly
- Be very sleepy



If this happens, remove the lozenge from their mouth and contact your healthcare team straight away.

Other possible side effects include:

- constipation
- rash
- headaches
- dizziness.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

- These lozenges should only be given to your child -do not share them with anyone else.
- If a lozenge is not finished, run the stick under hot water until it fully dissolved.
- Throw away used sticks safely, out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep the lozenges somewhere cool and dry, away from direct heat and light. They do not need to be kept in a fridge.

Contact details

If you have any questions, contact the Children and Young Person's Oncology Symptom Care Specialist team at The Royal Marsden.

Tel: 020 8661 3625

(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

Out of hours (evenings and weekends)

Tel: 020 8642 6011 Follow the electronic message to The Royal Marsden Switchboard and ask for the PATCH team

