

# BCCA Protocol Summary for Incident Pain Therapy Using Sufentanil Via Sublingual Route

**Protocol Code**

SCPAINSU

**Tumour Group**

Supportive Care

**Contact Physician**

Dr. Pippa Hawley

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Patients with incident pain.

## TESTS:

- Baseline: pain level, sedation level, respiratory rate.
- At 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 25 minutes post dose(s) for first episode of pain: pain level, sedation level, respiratory rate and other adverse effects.

## PREMEDICATIONS:

- None.

## TREATMENT:

Drug	Dose	BCCA Administration Guideline
Sufentanil	12.5 - 25 mcg prn. May repeat every 5 minutes up to maximum of 3 doses in a 1-hour period.  (for opioid naïve patients <sup>*</sup> , start with 12.5 mcg prn; may repeat every 5 minutes up to maximum of 3 doses in a 1-hour period)  (for opioid tolerant patients, give 25 mcg prn; may repeat every 5 minutes up to maximum of 3 doses in a 1-hour period)	Sublingual  (hold liquid under the tongue for at least 1 minute or until absorbed)

\*If insufficient pain relief with activity after 3 doses of 12.5 mcg in 1 hour, then in the following episodes of pain, may increase to 25 mcg q 5 min up to 3 doses in a 1-hr period.

Discontinue if no response after 3 doses of 25 mcg in one episode of pain.

## DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

1. **Hematological:** None

2. **Renal dysfunction:** None.
3. **Hepatic dysfunction:** None.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

1. **Sedation:** If patient's sedation level is 3 and pain is still uncontrolled, discontinue protocol.

**SEDATION LEVEL ASSESSMENT**

S = Sleeping (easy to rouse, NORMAL SLEEP)  
0 = None (awake, alert)  
1 = Mild (occasionally drowsy, easy to rouse)  
2 = Moderate (frequently drowsy, easy to rouse)  
3 = Severe (somnolent, difficult to rouse)

2. **Respiration:** If patient's respiratory rate falls below 12 and pain is still uncontrolled, discontinue protocol.

**Call Dr. Pippa Hawley at (604) 877-6000 or 1-800-663-3333 with any problems or questions regarding this treatment program.**

**Date activated:** 1 April 2002

**Date revised:** 1 May 2009 (disclaimer added)

**References:**

1. Yeomans W, Hsu DHS, Shalansky K. Sublingual sufentanil. Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre Drug & Therapeutics Newsletter, 2001; 8(1).
2. Kunz KM, Theisen JA, Schroeder ME. Severe episodic pain: management with sublingual sufentanil. J Pain Symptom Manage 1993;8(4):189-90.
3. Gardner-Nix J. Oral transmucosal fentanyl and sufentanil for incident pain. J Pain Symptom Manage 2001;22(2):627-30.