

DURAGESIC PAIN PATCH

SIDE EFFECTS, OVERDOSE, RECALL, AND LAWSUITS



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DISCLAIMER: This information is not intended to replace the advice of a doctor. Please use this information to help in your conversation with you doctor. This is general background information and should not be followed as medical advice. Please consult your doctor regarding all medical questions and for all medical treatment.

This document is dedicated to providing public information regarding the Duragesic Pain Patch. None of the information in this document is intended to be formal legal advice, nor the formation of a lawyer/attorney-client relationship. Contact a personal injury lawyer at our law firm for information regarding your particular case.



CHRONIC PAIN IS A DEBILITATING CONDITION.

Living with long term around-the-clock chronic pain affects your relationships, your ability to earn a livelihood, your overall wellbeing, and enjoying life's little pleasures.

People will take great risks and will go to extreme measures to relieve pain. One of those extreme measures is using prescription narcotic pain patches. Narcotic pain relievers increase the risk of addiction and abuse because the more you use, the more you need; a vicious cycle of pain and pain relievers abuse.

The Duragesic patch is a thin, adhesive, rectangular patch that is worn on your skin and delivers fentanyl, a strong narcotic pain-relieving medicine delivered through the skin into the bloodstream.

Patients who use Duragesic patches or other similar pain patches should not drink alcohol, take tranquilizers (St. John's Wort), some antibiotics, HIV meds, and sleep medications. Combining these kinds of drugs and supplements could result in serious injury or death.

Dangerous Duragesic patch side effects run the gamut from concerned to serious and life threatening. If you have hives, difficulty breathing, and swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat; these would be considered life threatening side effects. Call 911 and get medical help ASAP. Stop using Duragesic patches and call your doctor if you have these serious side effects — weak, shallow breathing; fainting; clammy skin; and bruising.

Another way to overdose from Duragesic pain patches is exposure to direct heat sources — heating pads or electric blankets, heat lamps, saunas, hot tubs, and heated water beds — that could increase the amount of narcotic fentanyl gel that gets absorbed by the skin.



FDA WARNINGS

In July 2005 the FDA issued a safety advisory emphasizing the safe use of the fentanyl pain patch known by the brand name Duragesic and other generic pain patches. Despite this advisory, a large number serious problems and deaths continue to happen.

Two and a-half years later in December 2007 the FDA issued another fentanyl safety advisory: The fentanyl patch contains fentanyl, a very potent narcotic pain medicine which is only intended for treating persistent, moderate to severe pain in patients who are opioid-tolerant. It is extremely important that patients be opioid tolerant because of the dangerous side effects of the fentanyl patch.

Based on the number of adverse reactions and death, patients are still incorrectly using the fentanyl patch by replacing the pain patch more frequently than the instructions advise; by applying more patches than prescribed, or applying a heat source to the patch, all resulting in dangerously high fentanyl levels into the bloodstream.

Reports also indicate that doctors have inappropriately prescribed the fentanyl patch to patients for acute pain following surgery, for headaches, occasional or mild pain for which a fentanyl patch should never be prescribed.

Duragesic Pain Patch Recall

On February 12, 2008, pain patches containing the prescription painkiller fentanyl manufactured by Johnson & Johnson and sold under the brand name Duragesic patch were recalled because of a flaw that could cause patients to overdose.

There may be a cut in the lining of the reservoir of some of the pain patches causing the gel to leak. Direct contact with the powerful opiate may cause an overdose by patient or caregiver; an overdose could cause death.

Duragesic patch is a prescription product used by people who suffer from constant moderate to severe chronic pain needing to be treated 24/7 and cannot be treated by a combination of narcotic, short-acting, or non-narcotic pain treatment products.





MORE RECALLS

On March 1, 2008, Actavis Inc., the U.S. manufacturing and marketing division of the international generic pharmaceutical company Actavis Group hf, announced that its subsidiary Actavis South Atlantic LLC is proceeding with the voluntarily recall from wholesalers and pharmacies of all lots of Fentanyl transdermal system CII patches sold in the US.

This recall is an expansion of the initial recall of 14 lots of Fentanyl transdermal patches announced on February 17, 2008. That recall was due to the identification of a possible fold-over defect present in the product that potentially could cause fentanyl gel leakage.

The recalled pain patches all have expiration dates on or before December 2009 and are manufactured by ALZA Corporation, an affiliate of PriCara. All 25 mcg/hr fentanyl patches manufactured by ALZA and sold in Canada are also being recalled.

Let's face facts: the design model is not full proof. There have been recalls for leaks before.

In February 2004, Janssen Pharmaceutica recalled one lot of Duragesic (fentanyl transdermal system CII) 75 mcg per hour pain patch due to a potential leak in the product seal in a few hundred thousand pain patches. The company's PR machine spun a public message of reassurance that other lots and dosages of Duragesic patches were not affected.

Yet only two months later in April 2004, Janssen expanded its U.S. recall to include five lots or two million Duragesic 75 mcg/hr pain patches.

Fifteen months later the FDA issued their first public health advisory. People are still dying and there are still dangerous narcotic gel leaks. Who can you believe? What has the FDA learned? What can patients and caregivers do to protect themselves and fight back?

If you or a family member has been negatively impacted by the Duragesic fentanyl pain patch recall or the generic Sandoz fentanyl gel pain patch recall or the Activas transdermal pain patch recall – it's time to retain legal counsel.



HOW MUCH DOES A DURAGESIC PATCH LAWSUIT COST?

It costs you nothing. If [Anapol Schwartz](#) agrees to be retained, we take your Duragesic patch case or generic fentanyl gel pain patch case on a percentage contingency basis.

What that means is if you don't win your unsafe drug lawsuit, we don't get paid. No recovery; no fees. The likelihood of a successful lawsuit varies based on the facts of each and every case. Also local issues, involving specific state laws, may alter the handling of each unsafe drug lawsuit.

Here are some lawsuits that have been settled:

http://www.anapolschwartz.com/verdicts/medical_malpractice.shtml

Most likely you are not alone and could be part of a class action law suit or an individual law suit.

Retaining a lawyer is a big step but let [Anapol Schwartz](#) try to make it easier. Since 1977 Anapol Schwartz has been taking on the drug companies by fighting for what's fair, on behalf of people just like you.

TALK TO US

We listen and can answer your questions and probably some you didn't even think of. [How can we help?](#)



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