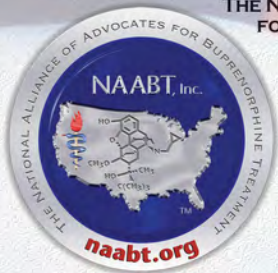


This patient is taking a combination drug of buprenorphine, a partial opiate agonist, and naloxone, an opiate antagonist (naloxone is only clinically active when abused parenterally). Patients taking buprenorphine may have a diminished response to opiate medications (including those for the management of cough or pain).

Opiate-containing preparations should be avoided when non-opiate therapy is available as an alternative. In an emergency situation requiring pain relief in patients taking buprenorphine, a suggested plan of management is regional anesthesia, conscious sedation with a benzodiazepine, use of non-opioid analgesics or general anesthesia. In a situation requiring opiate analgesia, the dose of opiate required may be greater than usual. A rapidly acting opiate analgesic, which minimizes the duration of respiratory depression, should be used. The dose of opiate medication should be titrated against the patient's analgesic and physiological response, with close monitoring by trained staff.

Overdose with buprenorphine alone is uncommon. In a situation that a patient taking buprenorphine has overdosed and is unconscious, the primary management should be the re-establishment of adequate ventilation with mechanical assistance of respiration, if required. Overdose in combination with other CNS depressants should be considered because of the increased potential for life-threatening events. Naloxone may not be effective in reversing any respiratory depression produced by buprenorphine. High doses of naloxone hydrochloride, 10-35 mg/70 kg, may be of limited value in the management of buprenorphine overdose. Doxapram (a respiratory stimulant) has also been used.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ADVOCATES FOR BUPRENORPHINE TREATMENT



Emergency Medical Information

— naabt.org —



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ADVOCATES FOR BUPRENORPHINE TREATMENT

I am prescribed Buprenorphine, a partial opioid agonist.
In case of emergency, call 911 for medical assistance.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Physician's Name: _____

Physician's Phone Number: _____

• **Buprenorphine can affect opioid pain medication** •

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Phone Number: _____

Contact Person's Relationship: _____

Important documentation about buprenorphine:

www.naabt.org/emergency

naabt.org