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Butorphanol (nasal)

Generic name: butorphanol (nasal) [*bue-TOR-fa-nol*]

Dosage form: nasal spray (10 mg/mL)

Drug class: [Opioids \(narcotic analgesics\)](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jan 20, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is butorphanol nasal?

[Butorphanol](#) is an opioid pain medication that is used to treat moderate to severe pain.

Butorphanol may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Butorphanol nasal side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Opioid medicine can slow or stop your breathing, and death may occur. A person caring for you should give naloxone and/or seek emergency medical attention if you have slow breathing with long pauses, blue colored lips, or if you are hard to wake up.

Butorphanol may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- noisy breathing, sighing, shallow breathing, breathing that stops;
- [slow heart rate](#) or weak pulse;
- fast or pounding heartbeats;
- problems with urination;
- tremors, numbness or tingling;
- confusion, feeling like you are floating;
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- **high levels of serotonin in the body**--agitation, hallucinations, fever, sweating, shivering, [fast heart rate](#), muscle stiffness, twitching, loss of coordination, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; or
- **low cortisol levels**--nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, dizziness, worsening tiredness or weakness.

Serious breathing problems may be more likely in older adults and those who are debilitated or have wasting syndrome or chronic breathing disorders.

Common side effects include:

- drowsiness, dizziness;
- sleep problems (insomnia);
- nausea, vomiting; or
- stuffy nose.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Butorphanol side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

MISUSE OF OPIOID MEDICINE CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH. Keep the medication in a place where others cannot get to it.

Using butorphanol during pregnancy may cause life-threatening withdrawal symptoms in the newborn.

Fatal side effects can occur if you use this medicine with alcohol, or with other drugs that cause drowsiness or slow your breathing.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use butorphanol if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- severe asthma or breathing problems; or
- a stomach or [bowel obstruction](#) (including [paralytic ileus](#)).

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- breathing problems, [sleep apnea](#) (breathing stops during sleep);
- liver or kidney disease;
- a [head injury](#), [brain tumor](#), or seizures;

- [heart disease](#), [high blood pressure](#), recent [heart attack](#); or
- alcoholism or [drug addiction](#).

If you use opioid medicine while you are pregnant, your baby could become dependent on the drug. This can cause life-threatening withdrawal symptoms in the baby after it is born. Babies born dependent on opioids may need medical treatment for several weeks.

Ask a doctor before using opioid medicine if you are breastfeeding. Tell your doctor if you notice severe drowsiness or slow breathing in the nursing baby.

How should I use butorphanol nasal?

Follow the directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides. **Never use butorphanol in larger amounts, or for longer than prescribed.** Tell your doctor if you feel an increased urge to use more of butorphanol.

Never share opioid medicine with another person, especially someone with a history of drug abuse or addiction. MISUSE CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH. Keep the medicine in a place where others cannot get to it. Selling or giving away opioid medicine is against the law.

For best results, blow your nose before using the nasal spray.

Before using the spray for the first time, you must prime the spray pump. Remove the protective clip and pump 7 or 8 times into the air until a fine mist appears. Prime the spray pump any time you have not used your nasal spray for longer than 48 hours.

Do not stop using butorphanol nasal suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using butorphanol nasal.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Do not keep leftover opioid medication. **Just one dose can cause death in someone using this medicine accidentally or improperly.** Ask your pharmacist where to locate a drug take-back disposal program. If there is no take-back program, flush the unused medicine down the toilet.

 [Detailed Butorphanol dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since butorphanol is used for pain, you are not likely to miss a dose. Skip any missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An opioid overdose can be fatal, especially in a child or other person using the medicine without a prescription.** Overdose symptoms may include severe drowsiness, pinpoint pupils, slow breathing, or no breathing.

Your doctor may recommend you get naloxone (a medicine to reverse an [opioid overdose](#)) and keep it with you at all times. A person caring for you can give the naloxone if you stop breathing or don't wake up. Your caregiver must still get

emergency medical help and may need to perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on you while waiting for help to arrive.

Anyone can buy naloxone from a pharmacy or local health department. Make sure any person caring for you knows where you keep naloxone and how to use it.

What should I avoid while using butorphanol nasal?

Do not drink alcohol. Dangerous side effects or death could occur.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how butorphanol will affect you. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

What other drugs will affect butorphanol nasal?

You may have breathing problems or withdrawal symptoms if you start or stop taking certain other medicines.

Tell your doctor if you also use an antibiotic, antifungal medication, heart or blood pressure medication, seizure medication, or medicine to treat HIV or [hepatitis C](#).

Opioid medication can interact with many other drugs and cause dangerous side effects or death. Be sure your doctor knows if you also use:

- **other opioids**--opioid pain medicine or prescription cough medicine;
- **a sedative like Valium**--diazepam, [alprazolam](#), lorazepam, Xanax, Klonopin, Ativan, and others;
- **drugs that make you sleepy or slow your breathing**--a sleeping pill, muscle relaxer, medicine to treat mood disorders or mental illness; or
- **drugs that affect serotonin levels in your body**--a stimulant, or medicine for [depression](#), [Parkinson's disease](#), migraine headaches, serious infections, or nausea and vomiting.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect butorphanol, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). **Not all possible interactions are listed here.**

 [Butorphanol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does butorphanol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation


 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

4 Some potential for abuse



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.4 / 10

[97 Reviews](#)

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