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2. Buprenex

Buprenex Injection

Generic name: [buprenorphine injection](#) [BUE-pre-NOR-feen]

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

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Sep 29, 2023.

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What is Buprenex?

Buprenex is an opioid medicine used to treat moderate to severe pain in adults and children at least 2 years old. An opioid is sometimes called a narcotic.

Buprenex Injection is used to relieve moderate pain that is severe enough to require an opiate pain killer and for which other medicines (e.g., non-opiate pain killers or opiate-containing combination medicines) have not been, or are not expected to be sufficient.

Buprenorphine belongs to a class of medications called opiate partial agonists. Buprenex works by changing the way the body senses pain. acute pain.

This medication guide provides information about the Buprenex brand of buprenorphine injection. [Sublocade](#) is another brand of buprenorphine injection used to treat opioid addiction.

Buprenex side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Buprenex:** 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.

To make sure Buprenex is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- confusion, cold and clammy skin, slow breathing (breathing may stop);
- feeling light-headed;
- fast or uneven heart rate, [shortness of breath](#);
- blue lips or fingernails; or
- severe [constipation](#).

Seek medical attention right away if you have symptoms of serotonin syndrome, such as: [agitation](#), hallucinations, [fever](#), [sweating](#), shivering, [fast heart rate](#), muscle stiffness, twitching, loss of coordination, [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), or [diarrhea](#).

Serious breathing problems may be more likely in older adults and people who are debilitated or have [wasting syndrome](#) or chronic breathing disorders.

Common Buprenex side effects may include:

- [drowsiness](#), slow breathing;
- nausea, vomiting;
- dizziness, [vertigo](#) (spinning sensation);
- pinpoint pupils;
- increased sweating; or
- [headache](#).

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.

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

Related/similar drugs

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Warnings

Buprenex may be habit-forming. **Misuse can cause addiction, overdose, or death.**

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

Fatal side effects can occur if you use opioid medicine with alcohol, or with other drugs that cause drowsiness

or slow your breathing.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use **Buprenex** if you are allergic to [buprenorphine](#), or if you have:

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

To make sure Buprenex is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease ([COPD](#)), [sleep apnea](#), or other breathing disorder;
- a [head injury](#), [brain tumor](#), high pressure inside the skull, or [seizures](#);
- problems with your bile duct, gallbladder, pancreas, thyroid, or adrenal gland;
- heart problems, an electrolyte imbalance (such as low blood levels of potassium or magnesium);
- a drug or alcohol addiction, or mental illness;
- [enlarged prostate](#), urination problems;
- curvature of the spine that affects breathing; or
- liver or kidney disease.

Tell your doctor if you also use stimulant medicine, other opioid medicine, [herbal products](#), or medicine for [depression](#), mental illness, [Parkinson's disease](#), migraine headaches, serious infections, or prevention of nausea and vomiting. An interaction with buprenorphine could cause a serious condition called serotonin syndrome.

If you use buprenorphine during pregnancy, your baby could be born with life-threatening withdrawal symptoms, and may need medical treatment for several weeks.

Do not breastfeed. Buprenorphine in breast milk can cause life-threatening side effects in a nursing baby.

 [Buprenex pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How is Buprenex given?

Buprenex is injected into a muscle or given as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection. Buprenex is usually given by injection only if you are unable to take the medicine by mouth or use another form of buprenorphine.

Buprenex is usually given at evenly spaced intervals, up to 6 hours apart. Tell your doctor if Buprenex does not relieve your pain within 1 hour after an injection.

Buprenex can cause irritation if it gets on your skin. If this occurs, remove any clothing the medicine has spilled onto, and rinse your skin with water.

Your breathing, blood pressure, oxygen levels, and other vital signs will be watched closely. You may need other medical tests.

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 medication in a place where others cannot get to it. Selling or giving away opioid medicine is against the law.

 [Buprenex patient tips](#) (more detail)

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose of Buprenex for Pain:

Initial dose: 0.3 mg deep IM or slow IV (over at least 2 minutes); may repeat this dose once after 30 to 60 minutes if needed; then, 0.3 mg IV/IM every 6 hours as needed

-A single 0.6 mg IM dose may be given to patients who are not in a high risk category (see Warnings)

Maximum single dose: 0.3 mg (IV) or 0.6 mg (IM)

Usual Pediatric Dose of Buprenex for Pain:

2 to 12 years:

Initial dose: 2 to 6 mcg/kg IM or slow IV every 4 to 6 hours

-Some patients may not need to be remedicated for 6 to 8 hours; fixed interval or round the clock dosing should not be used until the proper inter-dose interval has been established

Over 12 years:

Initial dose: 0.3 mg deep IM or slow IV (over at least 2 minutes); may repeat this dose once after 30 to 60 minutes if needed; then, 0.3 mg IV/IM every 6 hours as needed

Maximum single dose: 0.3 mg

Comments:

-Use extra caution with IV administration, especially the first dose.

-Monitor closely for respiratory depression, especially within the first 24 to 72 hours.

-Use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration consistent with the individual patient's treatment goals.

Use: For the management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternate treatments are inadequate.

 [Detailed Buprenex dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

In a medical setting you are not likely to miss a dose.

What happens if I overdose?

In a medical setting an overdose would be treated quickly.

What should I avoid while receiving Buprenex?

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

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how Buprenex will affect you. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls,

accidents, or severe injuries.

What other drugs will affect Buprenex?

You may have a fatal buprenorphine overdose if you start or stop using certain other medicines. Tell your doctor about all your medications.

Many other drugs can be dangerous when used with opioid medicine. Tell your doctor if you also use:

- medicine for allergies, asthma, blood pressure, [motion sickness](#), irritable bowel, or [overactive bladder](#);
- other opioid medicines;
- a benzodiazepine sedative like [Valium](#), [Klonopin](#), or [Xanax](#); or
- sleep medicine, muscle relaxers, or other drugs that make you drowsy.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may interact with Buprenex. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and herbal products. Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

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

Does Buprenex interact with my other drugs?

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

Buprenex

+






Enter a drug name

Add

Manufacturer

Distributed by: Indivior Inc., North Chesterfield, VA 23235, USA.

Popular FAQ

- How quickly does Buprenex work? 
- What are the different brands of buprenorphine? 
- Is buprenorphine an opiate / narcotic? 
- Is Buprenex the same as buprenorphine? 
- How long does opioid withdrawal last? 

How long does buprenorphine stay in your system?



More FAQ

- [Is Buprenex safe for humans?](#)
- [How long does Buprenex stay in your system?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

1. [Buprenex Product Label](#)

More about Buprenex (buprenorphine)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(6\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(4\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: Opioids \(narcotic analgesics\)](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Subutex](#), [Belbuca](#), [Sublocade](#), [Butrans](#), ... +2 more

Professional resources

- [Buprenex prescribing information](#)
- [Buprenorphine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Belbuca](#), [Sublocade](#), [Butrans](#), [Brixadi](#), [Probuphine](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Chronic Pain](#)
- [Pain](#)

Further information

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

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

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Availability		
Rx	Prescription only	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
3	Moderate abuse potential	▼
Approval History		
10+ years	FDA approved 1981	▼
WADA Class		
	Anti-Doping Classification	▼

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Images

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