

# Opioid Pharmacokinetics, Serum Predictability, and Expected Metabolites

DRUG	Half-Life (Hrs <sup>A</sup> )	Time to Steady State (Hrs <sup>A</sup> )	Metabolites	Time to Peak Conc. (Hrs <sup>A</sup> )	Serum Predictability	Bioavailability	Serum Concentration (ng/mL)
BUPRENORPHINE / NALOXONE <sup>44,45,46</sup> (Suboxone)	24-42/2-12	120-294	Norbuprenorphine	1.53-1.72 / 0.77-0.81	Y	15% / 3%	8/2mg: 3.37+/-1.8 and 0.193+/-0.0912
TRANSDERMAL BUPRENORPHINE <sup>48</sup>	26	3 days	Norbuprenorphine	60	Y	15%	Mult. Dose: 10mcg/hr: 0.224 Single Dose: 5mcg/hr: 0.176 10mcg/hr: 0.191 20mcg/hr: 0.471
BUCCAL BUPRENORPHINE <sup>48,49</sup>	27.6+/-11.2	3 days	Norbuprenorphine	2.5-3	Y	46-65%	Mult. Dose: 60mcg: 0.077+/-0.020 120mcg: 0.156+/-0.044 180mcg: 0.216+/-0.106 240mcg: 0.364+/-0.125 Single Dose: 75mcg: 0.17+/-0.30 300mcg: 0.47+/-0.47 1200mcg: 1.43+/-0.45
CODEINE <sup>13,14,24</sup>	2.5-3.5	12.5-17.5	Morphine, Norcodeine, Normorphine, Hydrocodone, Codeine 6-glucuronide	1-2	Y	Well absorbed	IR 180mg = 222.9 +/- 48.9
TRANSDERMAL FENTANYL <sup>7,8,9,24</sup>	16-25	72	Norfentanyl, 4-N-(N-propionylanilino) piperidine, 4-N-(N-hydroxypropionylanilino) piperidine, 1-(2-phenethyl)-4-N-(N-hydroxypropionylanilino) piperidine	24-72	Y	92%	25 mcg/hr = 0.6 +/-0.3 50mcg/hr = 1.4 +/- 0.5 75mcg/hr = 1.7 +/- 0.7 100mcg/hr = 2.5 +/- 1.2
TRANSBUCCAL, TRANSMUCOSAL SUBLINGUAL FENTANYL <sup>7**</sup>	14-19 (Onsolis) 2.6-11.7 (Fentora) 7 (Actiq) 5-13 (Abstral)	13-98	As above	0.75-4 (Onsolis) 0.58-0.78 (Fentora) 0.3-2 (Actiq) 0.25-1 (Abstral)	Y	Onsolis 71% Fentora 65% Actiq 47% Abstral 54%	800 mcg = 1.67* (Onsalis) 800 mcg = 1.59* (Fentora) 800 mcg = 1.03* (Actiq) 800 mcg = 1.42* (Abstral)
HYDROCODONE <sup>15,16,17,24,39,40,41</sup>	3.8	19-22.5	Hydromorphone, Norcodeine, 6-beta-hydrocodol, 6-alpha-hydrocodol, 6-beta-hydromorphol, 6-alpha-hydromorphol, norhydrocodone	1.3	Y	Well absorbed	IR 10mg = 23.6ng +/-5.2
HEROIN <sup>21,22,23,24</sup>	~3 min. 1.7-5.3 min	~15 min.	6-acetylmorphine, Morphine, Morphine-3-glucuronide, Normorphine, 6-acetylmorphine 3-glucuronide, Normorphine glucuronide	10 minutes for I.M. dose <sup>B</sup>	Y	Diacetylmorphine undergoes complete presystemic metabolism to morphine after oral administration	112mcg/min for 5 min Heroin level = 57 ng/mL <sup>C</sup> 6-acetylmorphine level=15ng/mL <sup>C</sup>
HYDROMORPHONE <sup>10,11,12,24</sup>	2.5	12.5	Hydromorphone-3-glucuronide, Hydromorphone-3-glucoside, Dihydroisomorphine-6-glucuronide, Dihydroisomorphine-6-glucoside, Dihydroisomorphine, Dihydromorphine <sup>E</sup>	48-60 min.	Y	24%	IR 48 mg = 19.7 +/- 4.04
LEVORPHANOL	1 dose: 11-16 Chronic: 30	72	3-glucuronide	approximately 1	?		
MEPERIDINE	~3.6	3-6 days	Normeperidine, meperidinic acid, normeperidinicacid	1-1.5	?	Variable: IM-57%	100 mg IM = 551 ng/mL
METHADONE <sup>18,19,20,24</sup>	24	~5 days	EDDP (2-ethyl-1,5-dimethyl-3,-3-diphenylpyrrolinium), EMDP (2-ethyl-5-methyl-3,3-diphenylpyraline)	2-4	Y	85%	Linear drug levels increase 260ng/mL for every 1mg/kg consumed
MORPHINE <sup>4,5,6,24,25</sup>	2-4	24	Morphine-3-glucuronide, Morphine-6-glucuronide, Normorphine, 7,8-dihydromorphinone, codeine (minor)	IR = 1 CR = 2-3	Y	20-40%	IR 40mg = 11.1 +/-8.4 CR 100mg = 36.9 +/-15.5
MORPHINE / NALTREXONE <sup>43</sup> (Embeda)	29	145-203	As above + 6-beta-naltrexol	7.5	Y	20-40%	lower Cmax and a higher Cmin than conventional immediate-release morphine at steady-state
OXYCODONE <sup>1,2,3,24</sup>	IV,IR=3.2 CR=4.5-8	IR: 17.5 CR: 24-36	Noroxycodone, Oxymorphone, Oxycodyl, Oxymorphol, Noroxycodyl	IR: 1.6 CR: 2.1-3.2	Y	60-87%	IV (0.14 mg/kg)=34-38 IR 20mg = 15.6 +/-4.4 CR 20mg = 15.1 +/-4.7
OXYMORPHONE <sup>42</sup>	IR = 7.2 -9.4hr ER 9.4 – 11.3	IR: 3-4 days ER: 3 days	Oxyorphone-3-glucuronide, 6-OH-oxymorphone	IR: 30mins ER: 3 hrs	Y	10% <sup>F</sup>	IR 20mg: 4.39 +/-1.72 ER 20mg: 2.54 +/-1.35
TAPENTADOL <sup>47</sup>	4	20-28	Tapentadol-O-glucuronide, desmethyl tapentadol, hydroxyl tapentadol	1.25-1.5	Y	32%	Cmax – 2.45 mcg/mL
TRAMADOL (M1 metabolite) <sup>50</sup>	IR: 5.6-6.7 (6.7-7) ER: 6.5-10 (7.5-11)	IR: 2 days ER: 4 days	O-desmethyiltramadol (M1)	IR: 1-2.3 (1.5-2.4) ER: 4-12 (5.15)	Y	IR: 75% ER: 85-95%	100mg IR q6h: 592 (110) 200mg ER qd: 332-345 (70-95)

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**Footnotes for Table Above**

IR = Immediate Release Products, CR = Continuous Release products, SS = Steady State  
A-Hours, unless otherwise indicated  
B-Can detect heroin and 6-acetyl morphine within 10-15 minutes of parenteral administration  
C-Administered IV in a single patient over 180 minutes  
\*\* These products are not considered bioequivalent  
D-Cumulative amount of fentanyl release from patch dose in 24 hours.

E-hydromorphone is 7,8-dihydromorphinone: Please note that morphine metabolism to hydro-morphine has been confirmed in 8 mammals other than humans. There is only data that correlates the conversion of morphine to hydromorphone in humans.<sup>29</sup>  
F- the bioavailability of oxymorphone increases significantly in hepatically (up to 12 fold) and renally impaired (65% with creatinine clearance less than 30 ml/min) patients  
\*peak concentrations

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