North Staffordshire and Stoke Health Economy NHS

THE OPIOID EQUIVALENCE TABLES

The doses in these tables should be used as an approximate guide only. There are many different sources of opioid dose equivalence data, and most of them contain different information. There are no universally accepted conversion ratios.[1] These tables use the conversions in the Palliative Care Formulary 4th edition (2011)[2]as a basis and the West Midlands Palliative Care Physicians Guidelines. These conversions sometimes differ from those in the product specific literature provided by the manufacturer.

Opioid	Potency ratio with oral morphine	Dose approximately equivalent to 10 mg oral morphine	Duration of action	Refs
Codeine Phosphate	10:1	100 mg	4-6 hours	2,3,4,5
Dihydrocodeine	10:1	100 mg	4-6 hours	2,5
Tramadol (oral)	10:1	100 mg	4-5 hours	2
Buprenorphine (sublingual)	1:75	200 microgram	6-8 hours	3
Morphine (oral)	1:1	10 mg	3-6 hours	2
Oxycodone (oral)	1:2	5 mg	4-6 hours	2,6

BuTrans® patch every 7th day[7]	Approximate oral morphine dose per day	Approximate oral codeine dose per day
Buprenorphine 5 micrograms/hour	12 mg	120 mg
Buprenorphine 10 micrograms/hour	24mg	240 mg
Buprenorphine 20 micrograms/hour	48 mg	
Fentanyl patch every 3rd day[8]		
12 micrograms/hour	30 mg	
25 micrograms/hour	60 mg	
50 micrograms/hour	120 mg	
75 micrograms/hour	180 mg	
100 micrograms/hour	240 mg	

References:

1 Quigley C. Opioid switching to improve pain relief and drug tolerability. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2004, Issue 3.accessed via http://www.mrw.interscience.wiley.com

2 Twycross R, Wilcock A. Palliative Care Formulary 4th edition. Pub. Palliativedrugs.com Ltd (2011). www.palliativedrugs.com

3 Twycross R. Pain Relief in Advanced Cancer. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone 1994.

4 Dollery C. Therapeutic Drugs 2nd edition. Edinburgh; Churchill Livingstone 1999.

5 Twycross R, Wilcock A. Symptom Management in Advanced Cancer 3rd edition. Abingdon: Radcliffe Medical Press 2001.

6 Summary of Product Characteristics OxyNorm 5, 10, 20mg. Cambridge: Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd. July 2008. Accessed online: www.emc.medicines.org.uk

7 Summary of Product Characteristics Transtec 35, 52.5 and 70 micrograms transdermal patch. Cambridge: Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd. January 2009. Accessed online: www.emc.medicines.org.uk

8 Summary of Product Characteristics Durogesic DTrans 12/25/50/75/100. High Wycombe: Janssen-Cilag Ltd. 16/03/2010. Accessed online: www.emc.medicines.org.uk

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