

THE USE OF FENTANYL SUBLINGUAL TABLETS IN A HOSPITAL

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BACKGROUND

Fentanyl sublingual tablets are indicated for the management of breakthrough pain in cancer patients who are already receiving and tolerant to around-the-clock opioid therapy for persistent cancer pain

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the use of sublingual fentanyl tablets in our hospital



METHODS & STUDY DESIGN

- Retrospective observational study
- From June 2017 to February 2018
- Hospitalized patients who were receiving Sublingual Fentanyl tablets

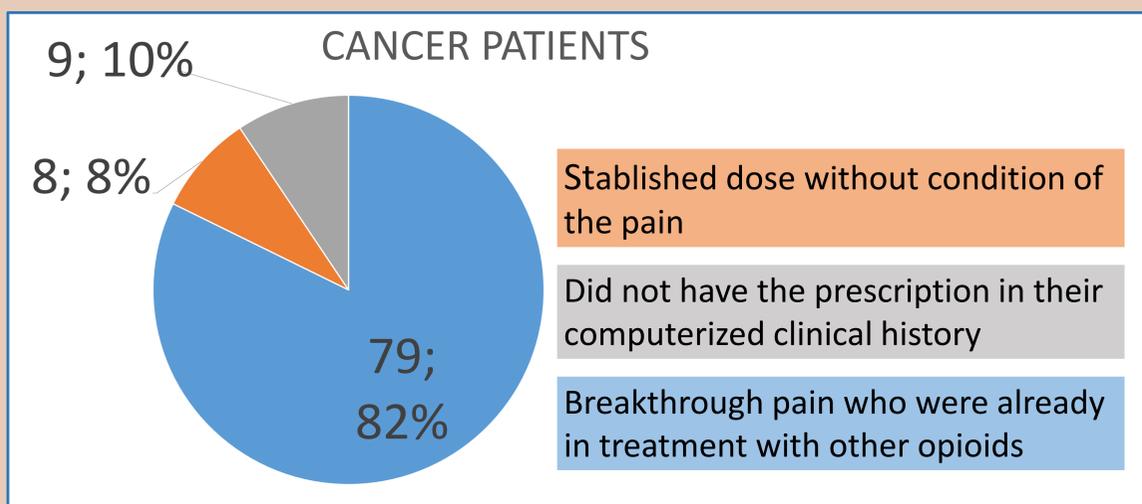
The database included:

- Age
- Sex
- Service of the prescribing doctor
- Prescribed doses
- Indication of sublingual fentanyl

RESULTS

We obtained 164 patients in total. 80(48.78%) were men and 84(51.22%) were women with a median age of 60.25 years old.

- 96(58.54%) were cancer patients
- 68(41.46%) patients were not cancer patients



The most diagnosed cancers were:

- Lung (17,70%)
- Colon (11,46%)
- Pancreas (8,33%)
- Mamary gland (6,25%)

NON CANCER PATIENTS

- 13(19,12%) postoperative pain
- 10(14,71%) rheumatoid pain
- 6(8,82%) diabetic foot disease
- 6(8,82%) ischemias due to a vascular disease
- 5(7,35%) uncontrolled postpartum pain
- 4 uncontrolled pain after a traumatism

In total, the prescription of sublingual fentanyl tablets in the computerized clinical history of the patients was not founded 18 times(10,98%). The maximum number of tablets were not specified in 55 patients(33,54%)

The most common services that prescribed the medication were: 20(29,41%) anesthesia, 12(17,65%) vascular angiology and 11(16,18%) rheumatology.

CONCLUSIONS

There are several patients in treatment with sublingual fentanyl that do not fit in his approved indication in our hospital.

Pharmacists must participate in the development of guidelines to ensure the indication of sublingual fentanyl is correct and to try to decrease the drug dependence related to his uncontrolled use.



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