



To Whom It May Concern,

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many hospitals have a shortage of intravenous fentanyl and other IV opioids and have reached out to the military for help. The US Army has suggested that AcelRx Pharmaceuticals initiate awareness of the availability of our opioid analgesic product.

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals manufactures DSUVIA® (sufentanil) sublingual tablet 30 mcg housed in a single-dose applicator that is dose-equivalent to 5 mg of IV morphine. DSUVIA is FDA-approved for the management of acute pain, severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate, in adults in certified medically supervised settings, such as hospitals, surgical centers and emergency departments.

DSUVIA was developed with funding from the Department of Defense and is manufactured in the United States. It has been used clinically, since our approval in November 2018, in both awake and intubated patients to provide opioid-level analgesia for painful conditions, surgeries and procedures. The clinical trials show a single dose has an onset of action in approximately 15 minutes with a duration of action of 3-4 hours in typical postoperative or emergency department patients. While DSUVIA is sublingually dosed, we recommend that all settings of use have pulse oximetry and supplement oxygen available as is customary for parenteral opioid analgesics.

The most commonly reported adverse reactions ($\geq 2\%$ and higher than placebo) were nausea, headache, vomiting, dizziness, and hypotension. Please see the below Important Safety Information, including Boxed Warning, and the attached full Prescribing Information.

DSUVIA may help you with the management of any adult patient in a certified medically supervised setting suffering from acute pain, which is severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate. Clinical setting examples include:

- 1) In EMS/emergency departments to avoid the time and resources of initiating IV access
- 2) In intensive care units, including patients on ventilators requiring opioid analgesia to tolerate the endotracheal tube and positive-pressure ventilation
- 3) In hospitalized patients with renal impairment, since sufentanil, like fentanyl, does not have active metabolites which require clearance by the kidneys

In these very difficult times, we understand that your organization is having to manage through extraordinary challenges. If you feel that DSUVIA could benefit your patients during this COVID-19 pandemic and IV opioid shortage, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Palmer'.

Pamela Palmer, MD PhD
Chief Medical Officer, AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

WARNING: ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE AND DSUVIA REMS PROGRAM; LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION; ADDICTION, ABUSE, AND MISUSE; CYTOCHROME P450 3A4 INTERACTION; and RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS

Accidental Exposure and DSUVIA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Program

Accidental exposure to or ingestion of DSUVIA, especially in children, can result in respiratory depression and death. Because of the potential for life-threatening respiratory depression due to accidental exposure, DSUVIA is only available through a restricted program called the DSUVIA REMS Program.

- DSUVIA must only be dispensed to patients in a certified medically supervised healthcare setting.
- Discontinue use of DSUVIA prior to discharge or transfer from the certified medically supervised healthcare setting.

Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of DSUVIA. Monitor for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of DSUVIA.

Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse

DSUVIA exposes patients and other users to the risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Assess each patient's risk prior to prescribing DSUVIA, and monitor all patients regularly for the development of these behaviors or conditions.

Cytochrome P450 3A4 Interaction

The concomitant use of DSUVIA with all cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors may result in an increase in sufentanil plasma concentrations, which could increase or prolong adverse drug reactions and may cause potentially fatal respiratory depression. In addition, discontinuation of a concomitantly used cytochrome P450 3A4 inducer may result in an increase in sufentanil plasma concentration. Monitor patients receiving DSUVIA and any CYP3A4 inhibitor or inducer.

Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines Or Other CNS Depressants

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death.

- Reserve concomitant prescribing for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

Indications and Usage

DSUVIA is indicated for use in adults in a certified medically supervised healthcare setting, such as hospitals, surgical centers, and emergency departments, for the management of acute pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate.

Limitations of Use:

- Not for home use or for use in children. Discontinue treatment with DSUVIA before patients leave the certified medically supervised healthcare setting.
- Not for use for more than 72 hours. The use of DSUVIA beyond 72 hours has not been studied.
- Only to be administered by a healthcare provider.
- Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, reserve DSUVIA for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options [e.g., non-opioid analgesics or opioid combination products]:
 - Have not been tolerated, or are not expected to be tolerated,
 - Have not provided adequate analgesia, or are not expected to provide adequate analgesia.

Contraindications

Use of DSUVIA is contraindicated in patients with:

- Significant respiratory depression
- Acute or severe bronchial asthma in an unmonitored setting or in the absence of resuscitative equipment
- Known or suspected gastrointestinal obstruction, including paralytic ileus
- Known hypersensitivity to sufentanil or components of DSUVIA.

Warnings and Precautions

- Accidental ingestion or exposure to even one dose of DSUVIA, especially in children, can result in respiratory depression and death due to an overdose of sufentanil.
- DSUVIA is for use in adult patients only in a certified medically supervised healthcare setting. Use of DSUVIA outside of this setting can increase the risk of accidental exposure in others for whom it is not prescribed, causing fatal respiratory depression. Discontinue use of DSUVIA prior to discharge or transfer from the certified medically supervised healthcare setting. DSUVIA is not for home or pediatric use.
- Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders including central sleep apnea (CSA) and sleep-related hypoxemia. Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent fashion. In patients who present with CSA, consider minimizing the use of DSUVIA and carefully monitor the patient for signs of respiratory depression. (revised per 2019 opioid class labeling)
- DSUVIA contains sufentanil, a Schedule II controlled substance. As an opioid, DSUVIA exposes users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse.
- Profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death may result from the concomitant use of DSUVIA with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (e.g., non-benzodiazepine sedatives/hypnotics, anxiolytics, tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, general anesthetics, antipsychotics, other opioids, alcohol). Because of these risks, reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Life-threatening respiratory depression in patients with chronic pulmonary disease or in elderly, cachectic and debilitated patients: monitor patients closely, particularly when initiating DSUVIA therapy and when DSUVIA is used with other drugs that depress respiration. Management of respiratory depression may include close observation, supportive measures, and use of opioid antagonists, depending on the patient's clinical status.
- A potentially life-threatening condition could result from concomitant serotonergic drug administration. Discontinue DSUVIA if serotonin syndrome is suspected. Cases of adrenal

insufficiency have been reported with opioid use (usually > 1 month). Presentation and symptoms are non-specific and include nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness and low blood pressure. Confirm diagnosis with testing as soon as possible and, if confirmed, treat with physiologic replacement of corticosteroids and wean patient from opioid.

- As with all opioids, sufentanil may produce bradycardia or hypotension in some patients. Therefore, DSUVIA should be used with caution in patients with bradyarrhythmias or hypovolemia.
- DSUVIA should not be used in patients who may be particularly susceptible to the intracranial effects of CO₂ retention, such as those with evidence of increased intracranial pressure, impaired consciousness or coma.
- Prolonged use of DSUVIA during pregnancy can result in withdrawal in the neonate, which can be life-threatening. Observe newborns for signs of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and manage accordingly. Advise pregnant women using opioids for a prolonged period of this risk and ensure that appropriate treatment will be available.
- Insufficient data are available on the use of DSUVIA in patients with severe liver or kidney impairment. DSUVIA should be used with caution in such patients due to the importance of these organs in the metabolism and excretion of sufentanil.

Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions are described, or described in greater detail, in other sections of the Prescribing Information:

- Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]
- Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*]
- Adrenal Insufficiency [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.9)*]
- Severe hypotension [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*]
- Gastrointestinal Adverse Reactions [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.12)*]
- Seizures [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.13)*]
- Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.15)*]

The most commonly reported adverse reactions (≥ 2% and higher than placebo) were nausea, headache, vomiting, dizziness, and hypotension.

Medical Information

For medical inquiries or to report an adverse event, other safety-related information or product complaints for a company product, please contact the AcetRx Medical Information Contact Center at 1-855-925-8476 or AcetRxMedInfo@rmpdc.org.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see [full Prescribing Information](#) and [Directions For Use](#).