TABLE 3

Most commonly used opioids

most commonly used opioids		Duration		
	starting dose	of analgesia		
Onset of action	(opioid-naive)	(hours)		Oral
05.41	25.40	2.4	10	30
	N# 5	-		
10–30 minutes	5–10 mg every 4 hours	3–4 (variable)		
1.5–2 hours	30 mg every 4 hours	4–6	100	200
1 hour	25 mg daily	4–6 (initially) 3–11 (chronic)	100	120
0.5–1 hour	2.5–5 mg every 4 hours	4–8	NA	30
			NA	20
1 hour	2.5–5 mg every 4 hours	3–6		
3–4 hours	10 mg every 12 hours	8–12		
			1.5	7.5
15-30 minutes	2–4 mg every 4 hours	3–6		
5 minutes	0.3–1 every 4 hours	3–4		
Not recommended for	or opioid-naïve patients		0.1	NA
IV: immediate SQ: 20 minutes	25–50 μg every 1–2 hours	IV: 0.5–1 SQ: 1–2 Increases with repeated use		
12–24 hours	12–25 μg every 72 hours	48–72 per patch Up to 12 after removal		
0.5–1 hour	2.5 mg every 8–12 hours	3–4 (initially) 6–8 (chronic) Increases with repeated use	10	20
10–20 minutes	1.25 mg every 8 hours			
	Onset of action  0.5–1 hours 4–6 hours 5–10 minutes 20 minutes 10–30 minutes 1.5–2 hours 1 hour  0.5–1 hour  1 hour 3–4 hours  15–30 minutes 5 minutes V: immediate SQ: 20 minutes  12–24 hours	Onset of actionRecommended starting dose (opioid-naïve)0.5-1 hours2.5-10 mg every 4 hours4-6 hours15 mg every 8-24 hours5-10 minutes2.5-5 mg every 4 hours20 minutes5-10 mg every 4 hours10-30 minutes5-10 mg every 4 hours1.5-2 hours30 mg every 4 hours1 hour2.5-5 mg every 4 hours1 hour2.5-5 mg every 4 hours3-4 hours10 mg every 12 hours15-30 minutes2-4 mg every 4 hours5 minutes0.3-1 every 4 hoursNot recommended for opioid-naïve patientsIV: immediate SQ: 20 minutes25-50 µg every 1-2 hours12-24 hours12-25 µg every 72 hours0.5-1 hour2.5 mg every 8-12 hours10-20 minutes1.25 mg every 8 hours	Noset of action Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of action Onset of action Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of action Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of analgesia (hours) Onset of action Onset	Onset of actionRecommended starting dose (opioid-naïve)Duration of analges in parameter (hours)Equianalges in parameter (hours)0.5–1 hours2.5–10 mg every 4 hours3–4104–6 hours15 mg every 8–24 hours3–415–10 minutes2.5–5 mg every 4 hours3–4120 minutes5–10 mg every 4 hours3–4 (variable)11.5–2 hours30 mg every 4 hours4–6 (initially) 3–11 (chronic)1001 hour2.5 mg daily4–8NA1 hour2.5–5 mg every 4 hours3–6NA3–4 hours10 mg every 12 hours8–121.515–30 minutes2–4 mg every 4 hours3–61.55 minutes0.3–1 every 4 hours3–61.5Not recommended to opioid-naïve patients IV: immediate SQ: 20 minutes1V: 0.5–1 SQ: 1–2 Increases with repeated use0.112–24 hours1.2–25 µg every 72 hours48–72 per patch Up to 12 after removal0.5–1 hour2.5 mg every 8–12 hours48–72 per patch Up to 12 after removal0.5–1 hour2.5 mg every 8–12 hours3–4 (initially) 6–8 (chronic) Increases with repeated use0.5–1 hour2.5 mg every 8–12 hours3–4 (initially) 6–8 (chronic) Increases with repeated use0.5–1 hour2.5 mg every 8–12 hours3–4 (initially) 6–8 (chronic) Increases with repeated use0.5–1 hour2.5 mg every 8–12 hours3–4 (initially) 6–8 (chronic) Increases with repeated use

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> More appropriate in a continuous dosage. <sup>b</sup> Not recommended due to painful administration. <sup>c</sup> Not recommended due to adverse effects increasing disproportionately to analgesic effects. <sup>d</sup> Maximum dose 300 mg daily if creatinine clearance > 30 mL/min or 200 mg daily if creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min. <sup>e</sup> Only available in combination medications (paracetamol), which limits its dosage. <sup>f</sup> Reduce dose and titrate more cautiously in patients with renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance < 60 mL/min). <sup>g</sup> Some opioid-tolerant patients may require dosing every 8 hours for effective analgesia. <sup>h</sup> Consult a pain management expert before initiating.

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