



Fatal overdose after ingestion of a transdermal fentanyl patch in two non-human primates

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Mots-clés	fentanyl patch [7], opioids non human primate [8]
Résumé en anglais	<p>Case history and presentation Two non-human primates (<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>), weight 3.5 kg, enrolled in an experimental protocol received a 25 µg hour⁻¹ transdermal fentanyl patch for postoperative analgesia. The following day both animals were clinically normal, but after a new induction of anaesthesia with ketamine, they developed severe and prolonged respiratory distress, profound coma and myosis. Management and follow-up Attempted reversal with naloxone was ineffective. After several hours of ventilation, both primates eventually died, 7 and 15 hours after ketamine injection, respectively. In both cases, the patch was discovered in the animal's cheek pouch. Subsequent fentanyl serum concentration measurements (8.29 and 14.80 µg L⁻¹) confirmed fentanyl overdose. Conclusions This report of two fatal intoxications in non-human primates secondary to ingestion of a transdermal fentanyl patch demonstrates that this method of analgesia is inappropriate for non-human primates, because of their tendency to chew almost anything they can reach.</p>
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