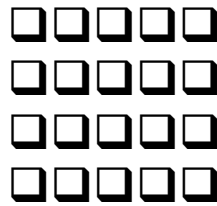
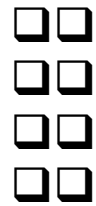


Patient Information Leaflet



Alfentanil spray for pain control



What is alfentanil spray used for?

Alfentanil spray is used to help control pain.

There are two types of pain that it is used for:

- Incident (predictable) pain, related to movement or activity. e.g. swallowing or coughing
- Spontaneous (unpredictable) pain, unrelated to movement or activity.

How do I assemble alfentanil spray?

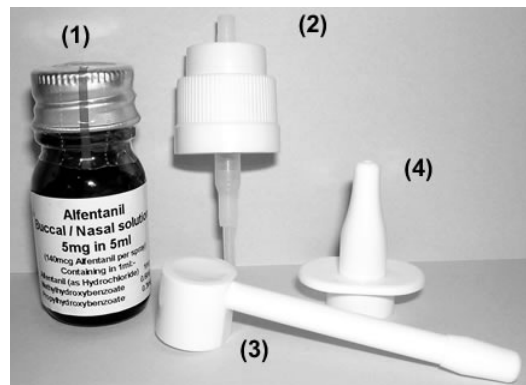
The Pharmacy may have already assembled your spray. If not, continue to read the instructions below.

An alfentanil spray comes in four parts:

1. There is an glass bottle containing alfentanil 5mg in 5mL solution

A plastic bag containing three plastic parts

2. The pump mechanism which screws into the glass bottle
3. The spray head with a 4-inch long delivery tube. This is called a buccal spray head as it is used to deliver the spray inside the mouth.
4. A nostril shaped spray head with clear plastic cover, which is used to deliver the spray inside the nostrils.



To assemble a spray:

- Open the plastic bag (try and avoid touching the spray and its parts by using the plastic bag to hold and attach the parts)
- If you have been instructed to use the spray inside the mouth rather than into the nose push the buccal spray head (3) onto the shorter of the two plastic tubes of the pump mechanism (2).
- Open the glass bottle (1) and screw the pump mechanism (plus buccal spray head) onto the bottle.
- If your doctor tells you to use the nasal spray head (4), attach this to the pump mechanism (2) in place of the buccal spray head (3). If the nasal spray head is not required it can be thrown away.

How do I administer alfentanil spray?

Before the pump is used for the first time, it will need to be primed. This is achieved by fully depressing the spray head **2 to 3 times** and this fills the pump mechanism.

This only needs to be done when first setting up the pump, not before each use.

To use the spray, place the delivery tube inside the mouth and spray the required number of sprays onto the inside of the cheek. You may be told to use anything between 2 and 12 sprays by your doctor.

How long will each bottle last?

Each individual spray delivers 0.14mL of alfentanil and after priming, each bottle should deliver a further 32-33 sprays. For example, if your doctor tells you to use 2 sprays at a time the bottle will deliver 16 doses. The spray should only be used for one month once assembled.

How long will it take to work?

It should start to work almost immediately and lasts 10 to 15 minutes

Are there any side effects?

The most common side effects associated with alfentanil spray are nausea, vomiting, constipation and drowsiness. If you experience any side effects tell your doctor.

Can I drink alcohol while using this spray?

Unless your doctor advises you otherwise you can drink alcohol in moderation, but it may make you feel more drowsy. Remember that this will affect your ability to drive or operate machinery.

How do I obtain further supplies?

For further supplies please contact your consultant's secretary to arrange a prescription that can then be dispensed by the hospital pharmacy. It may be possible, with prior arrangement, to obtain further supplies of alfentanil spray through your GP. It may take up to 7 days for your community pharmacy to obtain the spray. You should always organise a new supply before you run out completely.

Alfentanil spray does not currently have a product license.

What is a product license?

A government department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), issues product licenses. In order to obtain a license, the manufacturer or importer of a medicine provides evidence to the MHRA to show that the medicine works for the illness to be treated, does not have too many side effects and is made to a high standard. Obtaining a license takes a long time and can be very expensive. Alfentanil does not have a product license for the treatment of pain in this form because the manufacturer has not yet applied for one. It is however licensed in other forms, for example as an injection. There are a number of reports in the medical journals of people using alfentanil in pain control; so far it has been shown to be safe and effective.

Doctors may prescribe medicines that do not have a product license. Your doctor is aware that alfentanil does not hold a product license but feels that it may be of help to you.

For more information on the use of alfentanil for the treatment of pain contact the doctor responsible for this treatment or speak to a pharmacist at York Hospital.

**This information is available in other formats on request.
Please telephone us on 01904 725796 if you require
it in large print, Braille or on audiotape.**

This leaflet was produced by the Pharmacy Department of York Hospital

This leaflet has been prepared from standard information sources available at the time of publication. New information may become available in time, which may not be included in this information sheet.