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# Transdermal buprenorphine in the treatment of cancer and non-cancer pain – the results of multicenter studies in Poland

Anna Przeklasa-Muszyńska, Jan Dobrogowski

Department of Pain Research and Treatment, Chair of Anesthesiology and Intensive Therapy, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, Śniadeckich 10, PL 31-531 Kraków, Poland

**Correspondence:** Anna Przeklasa-Muszyńska, e-mail: aprzemusz@wp.pl

**Abstract:**
This was a multicenter, non-interventional, post-marketing study that aimed to evaluate the analgesic activity, safety of use, safety profile and adverse drug reactions of transdermal buprenorphine (Transtec® 35, 52.5 and 70 μg/h) during the treatment of moderate to severe chronic cancer and non-cancer pain. The study was performed in Poland by 339 doctors. The study involved 4,030 general practice outpatients (managed by primary care physicians), pain therapy center patients, specialist outpatient clinic patients as well as patients treated in inpatients units The recruitment process began in September of 2007, and the study was completed in October of 2008. The study has been reported to the Central Register of Clinical Trials in Poland; it was also in accordance with the requirements of the Polish Pharmaceutical Law in force. The objective of the study was to evaluate the efficacy, safety of use and application of transdermal buprenorphine in patients with moderate to severe cancer pain and in patients with severe, non-malignant pain in the course of other diseases. Patients were enrolled if their pain was not well-controlled after using non-opioid analgesics. Another objective of the study was to monitor adverse drug reactions of transdermal buprenorphine reported by patients or noted by the doctors during the study visits. This first such multicenter study in Poland has confirmed high efficacy and good tolerability of buprenorphine and, therefore, confirmed its usefulness in the treatment of moderate to severe cancer pain as well as in the treatment of severe pain in patients with non-cancer pain that cannot be effectively treated with non-opioid analgesics.

**Key words:**
transdermal buprenorphine, Transtec®, cancer pain, non-cancer pain, safety