



Title: Introduction into Australian Service of Oral Transmucosal Fentanyl Citrate for Battlefield Analgesia

Authors: Isaac Seidl and Dan Corkery

Presenter: Isaac Seidl

Presenters Biography:

Dr Isaac Seidl is a specialist medical administrator and general practitioner. He completed his medical degree at UWA, then undertook a variety of Army appointments across all military environments, including deployments to East Timor and Pakistan, before being appointed to Qld Health as Deputy Executive Director Medical Services in Townsville. Following a period of study sabbatical, he returned to the Australian Army at his former rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations as J07. Dr Seidl has published in the literature and presented at national and international conferences. His academic interests include crisis leadership, clinical governance and ethics. He is Adjunct Associate Professor in Public Health at James Cook University. Dr Seidl lives in Frederick, USA with his wife and two children.

Abstract :

Various presentations of morphine sulfate have been the gold standard for battlefield analgesia throughout Australia's modern military history. It has served us well. Most recently, the preferred presentation has been the auto injector, which is not approved by the TGA. This has presented logistical and governance challenges for deployed forces.

This presentation outlines the limited introduction of oral transmucosal fentanyl citrate (OTFC) into Australian service in 2012. It will cover advantages of this method, international experience, procedure followed for approval, and clinical governance/patient safety aspects. Of note, OTFC is TGA approved, but use as a battlefield analgesic constitutes 'off-label' use.

Ease of administration (including self-administration), safety for patient and provider, and short duration of action are amongst the advantages of OTFC, along with the minimal training required for safe use. Moreover, it can be safely used during tactical aeromedical evacuation, compared with injected morphine or inhalational methoxyflurane. A formal training program was instituted, in the operational environment, and OTFC was carried by specified groups of combat troops.

It is expected that use of this method of analgesia will broaden beyond specified combat troops on operational deployment to the wider ADF, including potential use in the maritime and air environments, on both operations and exercises.

References:

Authors(s) affiliations: IS: Australian Army, Directorate of Army Health, Army Headquarters; James Cook University, School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences
DC: Australian Army.