

Table 3 Comparison of safety profile of buprenorphine with other opioids

Opioid	GI safety – constipation	CNS – sedation	Respiratory distress	Immuno suppression	Tolerance	Addiction/ dependence	Hyperalgesia
Morphine	++++	++++	++++	++++	+++	Yes	Yes
Oxycodone	++++	++++	++++	–	+++	Yes	
Hydromorphone		++++	++++	–	?	Yes	
Fentanyl TD	++	++++	++++	++++	+++		Yes
Methadone			++++	?	?		
Buprenorphine TD/SL	++	+	++	–	+	Limited	Anti-hyperalgesia

Notes: Incidence and severity of effect is represented as: +++++, high; +++, moderately high; ++, moderate; +, mild; ?, unknown.

Abbreviations: CNS, central nervous system; GI, gastrointestinal; SL, sublingual; TD, transdermal.

