

Efficacy and patient satisfaction with a fentanyl buccal tablet for breakthrough pain (BTP) in cancer patients in German urology practices

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Introduction

Following modern principles of analgesic therapy 80 % of patients (pts) achieve pain control. A remaining problem is breakthrough pain (BTP). It is difficult to manage, especially in outpatient settings. In Germany, many pts with urological cancers are treated in urological practices. Urologists who are members of the German professional association of urologists in practices (IQUO) document all patients by using an online system in order to control, maintain and improve treatment quality and to measure outcome. Many patients with advanced diseases suffer from BTP although receiving maintenance opioid therapy for chronic cancer pain. The fentanyl buccal tablet (Effentora®) is a valuable treatment option for breakthrough pain in adult cancer patients.

Objectives

- The objectives of this retrospective survey were
- » to evaluate the efficacy of the fentanyl buccal tablet in the management of breakthrough pain in patients with urological cancers
 - » to assess patient satisfaction with the BTP treatment.

Methods

- » For documentation of treatment efficacy the online ODM QuaSi® URO system was used.
- » To assess patient satisfaction a printed questionnaire was handed out to the patients.
- » Documentation started on first application of FBT and was repeated after 1 week and 4 weeks.
- » Pain was assessed by VAS scale from 0–10
- » From 5/2009 until 4/2014, 89 patients with UC receiving FBT for BTP treated in 31 practices of the IQUO were analysed retrospectively.

Results

- » 89 patients (87 male, 2 female) with urological cancers were evaluable.
- » 74 patients had prostate, 11 had renal and 4 patients had bladder cancer.
- » Median patient age was 70 years (range 39–91).
- » 82 out of 89 patients (92 %) had metastatic disease.

Results

Opioid maintenance therapy	n	%
Fentanyl, transdermal	48	54 %
Hydromorphone	19	21 %
Morphin, sustained release	8	9 %
Oxycodone	18	20 %

Figure 1

- » All patients had breakthrough pain with a median of 3 pain episodes per day (range 1–5) despite opioid maintenance treatment.

Pain Intensity* of untreated breakthrough pain episodes	% of patients (n=89)
0 (no pain)	2.0 %
2	4.5 %
3	4.5 %
4	3.4 %
5	4.5 %
6	6.7 %
7	24.7 %
8	36.0 %
9	10.1 %
10 (worst pain imaginable)	5.6 %

Figure 2

- » 74 of 89 patients (83.1 %) had a pain intensity of ≥ 6 on a VAS scale from 0–10 before treatment of BTP.
- » 54 % of patients had not received any treatment for BTP before the start of treatment with fentanyl buccal tablet.
- » Most of the 41 patients pretreated for BTP had received oral transmucosal fentanyl (31.7 %) or oxycodone (29.3 %). 22 % had received hydromorphone.

Treatment of BTP with fentany buccal tablet				
Dosage	First FBT treatment		4 weeks after first treatment	
	n	%	n	%
100 µg	44	49.4 %	35	40.7 %
200 µg	27	30.3 %	19	22.1 %
400 µg	17	19.1 %	26	30.2 %
600 µg	0	0 %	5	5.8 %
800 µg	1	1.1 %	1	1.1 %

Figure 3

Results

Estimate of pain reduction	After 1 week	After 4 weeks
Very good	34.8 %	37.2 %
Good	52.8 %	50.0 %
Moderate	9.0 %	11.6 %
Insufficient	3.4 %	1.1 %

Figure 4

- » 87 % of patients judged the pain reduction by FBT as good or very good.

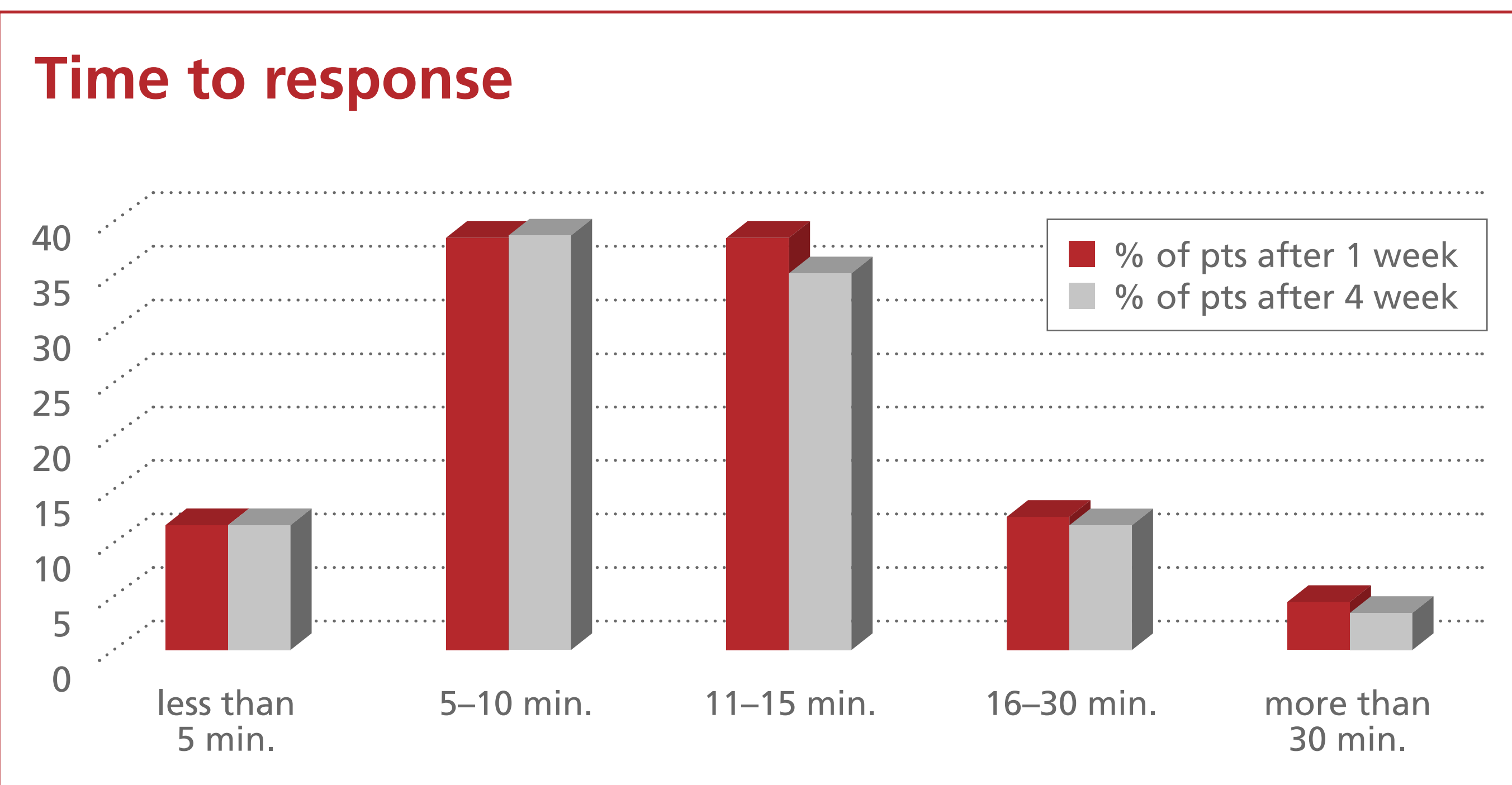


Figure 5

- » More than 80% of patients achieved adequate pain relief within 15 minutes.

Patient satisfaction after 4 weeks of treatment	%
Very good	40.7 %
Good	45.3 %
Moderate	9.3 %
Bad	4.7 %

Figure 6

Conclusion

- » Fentanyl buccal tablet showed high and rapid efficacy in reducing breakthrough pain in patients with urological cancers.
- » 77 % of all patients who had received BTP medication prior to treatment with fentanyl buccal tablet preferred this treatment to other oral medications.