Clinical Guideline for Parenteral Alfentanil

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Background
- Alfentanil: mu opioid receptor agonist
- Metabolized: in the liver to inactive metabolites
- Used parenterally for cancer pain & end-stage kidney failure
- Several specialist units in Ireland prescribe alfentanil
- Clinical guidelines facilitate safe, effective use
- Conversion ratios vary

Objectives
1. Review the evidence for alfentanil
2. Develop a clinical guideline for parenteral alfentanil

Methods
- A literature search & clinical experience informed guideline development
- Education was carried out to operationalize the guideline

Results

EVIDENCE:
1. Limited for alfentanil in cancer pain
2. Retrospective only in kidney failure
3. Recommended as 2nd line opioid:
   - Moderate/severe cancer pain
   - End-stage kidney failure
4. Prescribing practices (mg vs. mcg) controversial

INDICATIONS:
1. Volumes limit other opioids/medications
2. Opioid use limited by neuropsychological side effects
   - e.g. sedation
3. Kidney Failure:
   - acute severe
   - stage 4-5 chronic
     (GFR <30ml/min)

Conclusions
1. Alfentanil is an option for opioid switching in kidney failure & neuropsychological toxicity
2. Conversion ratio 15:1 (parenteral morphine:alfentanil)
3. A multidisciplinary clinical guideline for alfentanil via syringe driver was developed
4. Multi-centre audit & research on alfentanil will be conducted

References

The Use of Alfentanil in a Syringe Driver in Palliative Medicine

Warning: Alfentanil should not be confused with fentanyl. To ensure safety alfentanil will be prescribed in milligrams.

Preparations
- Alfentanil 1 mg/ml
- Alfentanil 5 mg/ml

Dose Conversion

Breakthrough doses

Indications for use

Compatibility information

Drug Interactions

Issues for Discharge

Warning: Rapifen is available in two different strengths, in very similar packaging. Please double check that you are administering the correct strength.

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