Fentanyl (Sublimaze) Use for Intrapartum Pain Relief

**Opiate agonist**
Similar to morphine and meperidine in its respiratory effects, except that respiration of healthy individuals returns to normal more quickly.

Although pharmacodynamically similar to morphine and meperidine, fentanyl exhibits little hypnotic activity.

**May be given IV or IM**
Preferred route is IV.

**Dosage and Administration**

**IV**
- Dose: 50-100mcg
- Peak effect within minutes
- Duration: 30-60 minutes

**IM**
- Dose: 50-100mcg
- Onset: 7-15 minutes
- Duration: 1-2 hours

**PCA**
- Loading dose: 50mcg
- Demand dose: 10mcg Q6min
- 4H lock out dose: 200mcg

**Cautions**

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** general anesthetics, CNS depressants, ethanol, hypnotics, other narcotic analgesics, sedatives, MAOIs, and tricyclic antidepressants.

May have **ADDICTIVE** effects with prolonged or repeated use

High doses may cause muscle rigidity (stiff chest) – can be reversed with neuromuscular blockers, but patient will need assisted ventilation.

Naloxone (Narcan) 0.4 mg IVP and resuscitation equipment should be readily available

When IV fentanyl is administered, fetal monitoring and maternal pulse oximetry is recommended.