Fentanyl

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Opioid/narcotic analgesic

How it works: Binds the mu opioid receptor, reducing cAMP and inhibiting the nerve cell

USE IT FOR

- Severe pain

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: hypersensitivity
- Respiratory depression may last longer than the analgesic effects
- Give slowly to reduce chest rigidity
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: 50-100 mcg IV/IO/IM/IN

Peds: [dose not stated in original text]

Repeat: May repeat every 5-10 min (per page)

WATCH FOR

- Respiratory depression
- Bradycardia
- Euphoria

PEARLS

- Onset 1-2 min; peak 6 min; half-life 30-60 min (per page)

Take Home Message:

Fentanyl treats severe pain at 50-100 mcg — give it slowly, and remember respiratory depression can outlast the analgesia.