

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

^NNUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release

Tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride) extended-release tablets

50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, and 250 mg tablets

Tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)

Opioid Analgesic

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March 01, 2018
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Date of Initial Authorization:
October 28, 2013
Date of Revision: July 30, 2021

Importer/Distributor

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Submission Control No: 247847
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RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

7 Warnings and Precautions

03/2021

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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (tapentadol extended-release tablets) is indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and:

- that is opioid-responsive; and
- for which alternative treatment options are inadequate.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic.

1.1 Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

The safety and efficacy of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release have not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age.

1.2 Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age):

Evidence from clinical studies and experience suggests that use in the geriatric population is associated with differences in safety or effectiveness. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics).

2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (tapentadol extended-release tablets) is contraindicated in:

- Patients who are hypersensitive (e.g., anaphylaxis, angioedema, anaphylactic shock) to tapentadol, to opioids, or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hypersensitivity, and 8. ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Reactions). For a complete listing of ingredients, see the 6. DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS COMPOSITIONS AND PACKAGING section of the Product Monograph;
- In patients with known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction (e.g., bowel obstruction, strictures) or any diseases/conditions that affect bowel transit (e.g., ileus of any type);
- Patients with suspected surgical abdomen (e.g., acute appendicitis or pancreatitis);
- The management of acute pain;
- Patients taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (or within 14 days of such therapy) (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS);
- Severe renal or hepatic impairment (creatinine clearance of less than 30 mL/min and/or Child-Pugh Class C);
- Patients with mild, intermittent or short-duration pain that can be managed with other pain medications;
- The management of peri-operative pain;
- Patients with acute asthma or other obstructive airway, and status asthmaticus;

- Patients with acute respiratory depression, elevated carbon dioxide levels in the blood, and cor pulmonale;
- Patients with acute alcoholism, delirium tremens, and convulsive disorders;
- Patients with severe CNS depression, increased cerebrospinal or intracranial pressure, and head injury;
- Women who are breastfeeding, pregnant, or during labour and delivery (see 3. SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX

Serious Warnings and Precautions

Limitations of Use

Because of the risks of addiction, abuse and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with extended-release opioid formulations, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options are ineffective or not tolerated (e.g., non-opioid analgesics), or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain (e.g., immediate-release opioids) (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Addiction, Abuse and Misuse

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release poses risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Each patient's risk should be assessed prior to prescribing NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, and all patients should be monitored regularly for the development of these behaviours or conditions (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

Life-threatening Respiratory Depression; OVERDOSE

Serious life-threatening or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Infants exposed in-utero or through breast milk are at risk of life-threatening respiratory depression upon delivery or when nursed. Patients should be monitored for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release or following a dose increase. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be swallowed whole; cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing or dissolving NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can cause rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of tapentadol (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Further, instruct patients of the hazards related to taking opioids including fatal overdose.

Accidental Exposure

Accidental consumption of even one dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of tapentadol (see 11. STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL for instructions on proper disposal).

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

Prolonged maternal use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Interaction with Alcohol

The co-ingestion of alcohol with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be avoided as it may result in dangerous additive effects, causing serious injury or death (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines or Other CNS Depressants

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic and 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS).

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.
- Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Dosing Considerations

- **All doses of opioids carry an inherent risk of fatal or non-fatal adverse events. This risk is increased with higher doses. For the management of chronic non-cancer, non-palliative pain, it is recommended that 300 mg (90 morphine milligram equivalent) daily of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release not be exceeded. Each patient should be assessed for their risk prior to prescribing NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, as the likelihood of experiencing serious adverse events can depend upon the type of opioid, duration of treatment, level of pain as well as the patient's own level of tolerance. In addition, the level of pain should be assessed routinely to confirm the most appropriate dose and the need for further use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage).**
- **NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options are ineffective or not tolerated (e.g., non-opioid analgesics), or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain (e.g., immediate-release opioids).**
- **NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be swallowed whole with sufficient liquid. When exposed to a small volume of water, particles or whole tablets become viscous (gel-like). Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing or dissolving NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets can cause rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of tapentadol (see 3. SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX).**
- As with many centrally acting analgesic medications, the dosing regimen should be individualized according to the severity of pain being treated, the patient's medical and analgesic history and the ability to follow-up and provide oversight of treatment. Owing to the varied response to opioids observed between individuals, it is recommended that all patients be started at the lowest possible dose of opioid therapy and titrated to an adequate level of analgesia, balanced against acceptable adverse events.

4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Adults: NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets can be taken with or without food (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Food Effect).

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): The safety and efficacy of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release have not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age.

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age):

In general, recommended dosing for elderly patients with normal renal and hepatic function is the same as for younger adult patients with normal renal and hepatic function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal and hepatic function, consideration should be given to starting elderly patients within the lower range of recommended doses.

Patients Currently Not Taking Opioid Analgesics (Opioid Naïve):

The 50 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets are intended for short-term use in the initial titration phase only.

Patients currently not taking opioid analgesics should begin NUCYNTA® Extended-Release therapy with 50 mg twice a day (approximately every 12 hours) and then be individually titrated to an optimal dose within the therapeutic range of 100 mg to 250 mg twice daily.

Patients Currently Taking Opioid Analgesics (Opioid Experienced):

Due to the dual mechanism of action of tapentadol (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY), caution should be exercised when switching from pure mu-opioids to tapentadol.

Generally, the nature of the previous analgesic, its administration and the mean total daily dose should be taken into account in choosing the initial dose. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release clinical studies demonstrated comparable pain relief between tapentadol extended-release and oxycodone CR at a dose ratio of 5:1. Published relative potency information may be used to calculate the relative equianalgesic dose of other opioids to oxycodone. Clinical guidelines suggest that a switch to a new drug should be accompanied by a 50% reduction in the calculated dose. Further adjustment to reach the optimal dose is recommended (see **Individualization of Dose and Maintenance of Therapy**). Patients should receive appropriate follow-up and oversight to ensure adequate analgesia and to minimize side effects.

The recommended NUCYNTA® Extended-Release dose is 100 mg to 250 mg twice daily, taken approximately every 12 hours.

Opioid Rotation:

Conversion ratios for opioids are subject to variations in kinetics governed by genetics and other factors. When switching from one opioid to another, consider reducing the calculated dose by 25-50% to minimize the risk of overdose. Subsequently, up-titrate the dose, as required, to reach the appropriate maintenance dose.

Table 1: Opioid Conversion Table^a

Opioids	To convert to oral morphine equivalent	To convert from oral morphine multiply by	Daily 90 mg MED ^b
Morphine	1	1	90 mg/d
Codeine	0.15	6.67	600 mg/d
Hydromorphone	5	0.2	18 mg/d
Oxycodone	1.5	0.667	60 mg/d
Tapentadol	0.3-0.4	2.5-3.33	300 mg/d
Tramadol	0.1-0.2	6	***
Methadone	Morphine dose equivalence is not reliably established		

*** The maximum recommended daily dose of tramadol is 300 mg - 400 mg depending on the formulation.

- Adapted from the 2017 Canadian guideline for opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. McMaster University; 2017
- MED: Morphine Equivalent Dose

Individualization of Dose and Maintenance of Therapy:

Pain relief and other opioid effects should be frequently assessed. In clinical practice, titration of the total daily dose of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should be based upon the amount of supplemental opioid utilization, severity of the patient's pain, and the patient's ability to tolerate NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release. Patients should be titrated to a dose providing a meaningful improvement of pain with acceptable tolerability. Experience from clinical studies has shown that a titration regimen in increments of 50 mg NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release twice daily every 3 days was appropriate to achieve adequate pain control in most patients. Total daily doses greater than 500 mg of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release have not been studied and, therefore, are not recommended (see 14. CLINICAL TRIALS).

If signs of excessive opioid-related adverse experiences are observed, the dose can be reduced depending on patient status and medical judgment. Adverse events can be treated symptomatically as well. Once adverse events are under control, upward titration can continue to an acceptable level of pain control.

During periods of changing analgesic requirement, including initial titration, frequent contact is recommended between physician and/or health care provider and the patient.

Management of Patients Requiring Rescue Medication:

If rescue medications are warranted for episodes of pain in the course of appropriate adjustments of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release dose, medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen or tramadol may be given. Fentanyl products should not be used as rescue medication in patients taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release. If immediate release tramadol is used as rescue medication, the total daily dose of tramadol should not exceed 400 mg. Selection of rescue medication should be based on individual patient conditions. For patients whose dose has been titrated to the recommended maintenance dose, without attainment of adequate analgesia, the total daily dose may be increased, unless precluded by side effects.

Conversion between NUCYNTA® IR and NUCYNTA® Extended-Release:

Clinical data indicate that patients who have been titrated to a stable daily dose with NUCYNTA® IR and have achieved optimal analgesia with acceptable tolerability, can be directly converted to an approximately equivalent total daily dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, and vice-versa, if necessary, with equivalent efficacy. As an example, a patient receiving 50 mg of NUCYNTA® IR four times per day (total of 200 mg/day) may be converted to 100 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release twice a day.

Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage:

Physical dependence with or without psychological dependence tends to occur with chronic administration of opioids, including **NUCYNTA® Extended-Release**. Withdrawal (abstinence) symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy. These symptoms may include restlessness, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, yawning, perspiration, chills, myalgia, and mydriasis. Other symptoms also may develop, including irritability, anxiety, backache, joint pain, weakness, abdominal cramps, insomnia, nausea, vomiting, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nervousness, sneezing, tremors, palpitations, fever, diarrhea, increased blood pressure or respiratory rate.

Following successful relief of severe pain, periodic attempts to reduce the opioid dose should be made. Smaller doses or complete discontinuation may become feasible due to a change in the patient's condition or mental state.

Patients on prolonged therapy should be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. In patients who are appropriately treated with opioid analgesics and who undergo gradual withdrawal for the drug, these symptoms are usually mild (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). Tapering should be individualized and carried out under medical supervision.

Patient should be informed that reducing and/or discontinuing opioids decreases their tolerance to these drugs. If treatment needs to be re-initiated, the patient must start at the lowest dose and titrate up to avoid overdose.

Discontinuation of Treatment:

Patients on prolonged therapy may be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. Mild to moderate withdrawal symptoms could occur after abrupt discontinuation of treatment with tapentadol. Clinical experience suggests that withdrawal symptoms may be relieved by reinstatement of opioid therapy followed by a gradual, tapered dose reduction of the medication combined with symptomatic support (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Withdrawal Symptoms and 8. ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Renal Impairment:

No dosage adjustment is recommended in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release has not been studied in controlled efficacy studies in patients with severe renal impairment. The use in this population is contraindicated.

Hepatic Impairment:

No dosage adjustment is recommended in patients with mild hepatic impairment (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with caution in patients with moderate hepatic impairment. Treatment in these patients should be initiated at 50 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and not be administered more frequently than once every 24 hours. Further treatment, which may include dose titration, should reflect maintenance of analgesia with acceptable tolerability (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment and use in this population is contraindicated.

4.4 Administration

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be swallowed whole with sufficient liquid. When exposed to a small volume of water, particles or whole tablets become viscous (gel-like). Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing or dissolving NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets can cause rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of tapentadol (see 3. SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX).

4.5 Missed Dose

Patients should be advised not to take extra tablets or a double dose to make up for a missed dose. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be taken once approximately every 12 hours.

5 OVERDOSAGE

Human Experience

Experience with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release overdose is very limited. Preclinical data suggest that symptoms similar to those of other centrally-acting analgesics with mu-opioid receptor agonist activity are to be expected upon intoxication with tapentadol. In principle, the clinical manifestations of opioid overdose are miosis, vomiting, cardiovascular collapse, consciousness disorders up to coma, convulsions, skeletal muscle flaccidity, cold and clammy skin, bradycardia, toxic leukoencephalopathy, delayed post-hypoxic leukoencephalopathy, hypotension, pneumonia aspiration, respiratory depression up to respiratory arrest, and death.

Management of Overdosage

Management of overdosage should be focused on treating symptoms of mu-opioid receptor agonism. Primary attention should be given to re-establishment of a patent airway and institution of assisted or controlled ventilation when overdosage of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is suspected.

Pure opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, are specific antidotes to respiratory depression resulting from opioid overdose. Respiratory depression following an overdose may outlast the duration of action of the opioid antagonist. Administration of an opioid antagonist is not a substitute for continuous monitoring of airway, breathing, and circulation following an opioid overdose. If the response to opioid antagonists is suboptimal or only brief in nature, an additional antagonist should be administered as directed by the manufacturer of the antagonist product. Overdosage with naloxone has been associated with seizure.

Gastrointestinal decontamination may be considered in order to eliminate unabsorbed drug. Gastrointestinal decontamination with activated charcoal or by gastric lavage may be considered within

2 hours after intake. Before attempting gastrointestinal decontamination, care should be taken to secure the airway.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table 2 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength / Composition	Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Oral	Extended-release tablet 50 mg tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)	Ammonium hydroxide, black iron oxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E.
	Extended-release tablet 100 mg tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)	Ammonium hydroxide, black iron oxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E.
	Extended-release tablet 150 mg tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)	Ammonium hydroxide, black iron oxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E, yellow iron oxide.
	Extended-release tablet 200 mg tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)	Ammonium hydroxide, black iron oxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E.
	Extended-release tablet 250 mg tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)	Ammonium hydroxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E.

Dosage Forms

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets are composed of a hydrophilic matrix system with demonstrated extended-release properties obtained through the use of the specific melt extrusion manufacturing process and the polymer polyethylene oxide.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets contain tapentadol hydrochloride as the medicinal ingredient and are available in dosage strengths of 50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, and 250 mg tapentadol base, as follows:

50 mg tablet: A white oblong-shaped tablet with a black print “OMJ 50” on one side.

100 mg tablet: A light blue oblong-shaped tablet with a black print “OMJ 100” on one side.

150 mg tablet: A blue green oblong-shaped tablet with a black print “OMJ 150” on one side.

200 mg tablet: A blue oblong-shaped tablet with a depression in the middle running lengthwise on each side and a black print “OMJ 200” on one side.

250 mg tablet: A dark blue oblong-shaped tablet with a depression in the middle running lengthwise on each side and a white print “OMJ 250” on one side.

Packaging

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets is supplied in bottles of 60 tablets with dessicant.

7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Please see 3. SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX.

General

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (tapentadol) tablets must be swallowed whole with sufficient liquid. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets should never be cut, broken, chewed, divided, dissolved or crushed. Taking broken or divided NUCYNTA® Extended-Release could lead to the uncontrolled release and rapid absorption of a potentially fatal dose of tapentadol.

Patients who have received NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be closely monitored, especially for signs of respiratory depression, until a stable maintenance dose is reached. As with many centrally acting analgesic medications, with both central and peripheral adverse effects, the dosing regimen should be individualized according to the severity of pain being treated, the previous treatment experience, and the ability to monitor the patient. Since alcohol increases the sedative effect of opioids, the concomitant use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and alcohol should be avoided.

Abuse, Addiction and Misuse

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is a potential drug of abuse and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Therefore, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be prescribed and handled with caution.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is intended for oral use only. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release could be abused by cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing, snorting, or injecting the dissolved product. These practices will result in the uncontrolled delivery of the opioid and pose a significant risk to the abuser that could result in overdose and death. With parenteral abuse, the tablet excipients can be expected

to result in local tissue necrosis, infection, pulmonary granulomas, and increased risk of endocarditis and valvular heart injury.

Patients should be assessed for their clinical risks for opioid abuse or addiction prior to being prescribed opioids. All patients receiving opioids should be routinely monitored for signs of misuse and abuse.

Opioids, such as NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with particular care in patients with a history of alcohol and illicit/prescription drug abuse. Concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion should not prevent the proper management of pain.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

See 16. NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY.

Cardiovascular

Hypotensive Effect

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may cause severe hypotension. There is an increased risk in patients whose ability to maintain blood pressure has already been compromised by a reduced blood volume or concurrent administration of certain CNS depressant drugs (e.g., phenothiazines, tranquilizers, sedatives, hypnotics, or general anesthetics; see 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS). Monitor these patients for signs of hypotension after initiating or titrating the dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. In patients with circulatory shock, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may cause vasodilation that can further reduce cardiac output and blood pressure. Use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release in patients with circulatory shock should be avoided.

Dependence/Tolerance

As with other opioids, tolerance and physical dependence may develop upon repeated administration of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and there is a potential for development of psychological dependence.

Physical dependence and tolerance reflect the neuroadaptation of the opioid receptors to chronic exposure to an opioid, and are separate and distinct from abuse and addiction. Tolerance, as well as physical dependence, may develop upon repeated administration of opioids, and are not by themselves evidence of an addictive disorder or abuse.

Patients on prolonged therapy should be tapered gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. Withdrawal symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy or upon administration of an opioid antagonist (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Withdrawal Symptoms).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be used in opioid-dependent patients since it cannot suppress morphine withdrawal symptoms, even though it is an opioid agonist.

Use in Drug and Alcohol Addiction

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is an opioid with no approved use in the management of addictive disorders. Its approved usage in individuals with drug or alcohol dependence, either active or in remission is for the management of chronic pain requiring continuous treatment with an opioid

analgesic. Patients with a history of addiction to drugs or alcohol may be at higher risk of becoming addicted to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release unless used under extreme caution and awareness.

Driving and Operating Machinery

Patients should be cautioned that NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery. This is to be expected especially at the beginning of treatment, at any change of dosage, as well as in combination with alcohol or tranquilizers (see 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Endocrine and Metabolism

Adrenal Insufficiency

Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use. Presentation of adrenal insufficiency may include non-specific symptoms and signs including nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, and low blood pressure. If adrenal insufficiency is suspected, confirm the diagnosis with diagnostic testing as soon as possible. If adrenal insufficiency is diagnosed, treat with physiologic replacement doses of corticosteroids. Wean the patient off of the opioid to allow adrenal function to recover and continue corticosteroid treatment until adrenal function recovers. Other opioids may be tried as some cases reported use of a different opioid without recurrence of adrenal insufficiency. The information available does not identify any particular opioids as being more likely to be associated with adrenal insufficiency.

Gastrointestinal

As may occur with other analgesics, the administration of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may complicate the clinical assessment of patients with acute abdominal conditions (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Hepatic Impairment

A study of tapentadol in subjects with hepatic impairment showed higher serum concentrations than in those with normal hepatic function. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with caution in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Hepatic Impairment and 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment and, therefore, use in this population is contraindicated (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS, 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Hepatic Impairment, and 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release has not been studied in controlled efficacy studies in patients with severe renal impairment; therefore, its use in this population is contraindicated (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS, 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Renal Impairment, and 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency).

Use in Pancreatic/Biliary Tract Disease

Drugs with mu-opioid receptor agonist activity may cause spasm of the sphincter of Oddi. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with caution in patients with biliary tract disease, including acute pancreatitis.

Hypersensitivity

There have been spontaneous post-marketing reports of hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphylaxis, angioedema, anaphylactic shock) in some patients during tapentadol treatment. Reported symptoms included skin redness, blisters, rash, hives, swollen face, throat tightness, dyspnea, and wheezing. Tapentadol treatment should be discontinued if such symptoms occur. Patients with hypersensitivity to tapentadol, or any other ingredient of the formulation or component of the container, should not take tapentadol (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS and 8. ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Reactions). Caution should also be exercised in patients who have had serious allergic reactions to other medications. For a complete listing of ingredients, see the 6. DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING section of the Product Monograph.

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening.

Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome presents as irritability, hyperactivity and abnormal sleep pattern, high pitched cry, tremor, vomiting, diarrhea and failure to gain weight. The onset, duration, and severity of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome vary based on the specific opioid used, duration of use, timing and amount of last maternal use, and rate of elimination of the drug by the newborn.

Use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is contraindicated in pregnant women (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Neurologic

Head Injury and Increased Intracranial Pressure

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with caution in patients with increased intracranial pressure or head injury, since the respiratory depressant effects of opioid receptor agonism include carbon dioxide retention and secondary elevation of cerebrospinal fluid pressure, and such effects may be markedly exaggerated in these patients. Also, pupillary changes (miosis) from tapentadol may obscure the existence, extent or course of intracranial pathology. Clinicians should also maintain a high index of suspicion for adverse drug reactions when evaluating altered mental status in these patients if they are receiving tapentadol (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Interactions with Central Nervous System Depressants (Including Benzodiazepines and Alcohol)

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be used with caution and in a reduced dosage during concomitant administration of other opioid analgesics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines and other tranquilizers, sedative-hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihistamines, benzodiazepines, centrally-active anti-emetics and other CNS depressants including alcohol. Respiratory depression, hypotension and profound sedation, coma or death may result. When such combination therapy is

contemplated, a substantial reduction in the dose of one or both agents should be considered and patients should be carefully monitored (see 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS). With patients who are depressed or suicidal, consideration should be given to the use of non-narcotic analgesics. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects.

Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioid analgesics alone. Because of similar pharmacological properties, it is reasonable to expect similar risk with the concomitant use of other CNS depressant drugs with opioid analgesics (see 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS). If the decision is made to prescribe a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant concomitantly with an opioid analgesic, prescribe the lowest effective dosages and minimum durations of concomitant use. In patients already receiving an opioid analgesic, prescribe a lower initial dose of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant than indicated in the absence of an opioid, and titrate based on clinical response. If an opioid analgesic is initiated in a patient already taking a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant, prescribe a lower initial dose of the opioid analgesic, and titrate based on clinical response. Follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation when NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is used with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (including alcohol and illicit drugs). Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant have been determined. Screen patients for risk of substance use disorders, including opioid abuse and misuse, and warn them of the risk for overdose and death associated with the use of additional CNS depressants including alcohol and illicit drugs (see DRUG INTERACTIONS).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS and 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Severe pain antagonizes the subjective and respiratory depressant actions of opioid analgesics. Should pain suddenly subside, these effects may rapidly become manifest.

Opioid induced hyperalgesia

Opioid induced hyperalgesia (OIH) is a paradoxical response to an opioid in which there is an increase in pain perception despite stable or increased opioid exposure. It differs from tolerance, in which higher opioid doses are required to achieve the same analgesic effect or treat recurring pain. Clinically, OIH may be associated with high opioid doses, long term opioid treatment, and intra-operative opioid use. OIH may manifest as an unexplained increase in pain, more diffuse pain than pre-existing, or as pain from ordinary (i.e. non-painful) stimuli (allodynia) in the absence of disease progression. When OIH is suspected, the dose of opioid should be reduced or tapered off, if possible. It is reasonable to consider opioid rotation, or the use of a non-opioid strategy for pain control. There is currently no well-established treatment for OIH.

Seizure Risk

Clinical studies with tapentadol excluded patients with a history of seizure disorder or epilepsy and those with a neurological disorder that may increase the risk of seizures, such as any of the following within one year: mild/moderate traumatic brain injury, stroke, transient ischemic attack, and brain neoplasm, and severe traumatic brain injury within 15 years (consisting of at least one of the following: brain contusion, intracranial hematoma, unconsciousness or post-traumatic amnesia, lasting for more

than 24 hours or residual sequelae suggesting transient change in consciousness). During the clinical trials of tapentadol one subject with a past history of seizures developed convulsion.

Spontaneous post-marketing reports of patients receiving tapentadol indicate that seizures have been reported. Although tapentadol has been given with concomitant use of selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and other medications in clinical trials, precaution should be used when tapentadol is administered concomitantly with other medications that may cause seizures. If seizures occur, tapentadol should be discontinued.

Risk of convulsions may also increase in patients with epilepsy, those with a history of seizures, or in patients with a recognized risk for seizure (such as head trauma, metabolic disorders, alcohol and drug withdrawal, CNS infections).

Serotonin toxicity / Serotonin syndrome

Serotonin toxicity also known as serotonin syndrome is a potentially life-threatening condition and has been reported with tapentadol hydrochloride, particularly during combined use with other serotonergic drugs (See 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Serotonin toxicity is characterised by neuromuscular excitation, autonomic stimulation (e.g. tachycardia, flushing) and altered mental state (e.g. anxiety, agitation, hypomania). In accordance with the Hunter Criteria, serotonin toxicity diagnosis is likely when, in the presence of at least one serotonergic agent, one of the following is observed:

Spontaneous clonus

Inducible clonus or ocular clonus with agitation or diaphoresis

Tremor and hyperreflexia

Hypertonia and body temperature >38°C and ocular clonus or inducible clonus.

If concomitant treatment with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and other serotonergic agents is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases (see 9. DRUG INTERACTIONS). If serotonin toxicity is suspected, discontinuation of the serotonergic agents should be considered.

Patient Counselling Information

A patient information sheet is included in the package of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets dispensed to the patient.

Patients receiving NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be given the following instructions by the physician:

1. Patients should be informed that accidental ingestion or use by individuals (including children) other than the patient for whom it was originally prescribed may lead to severe, even fatal, consequences.
2. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA® Extended-Release contains tapentadol, an opioid pain medicine.

3. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should only be taken as directed. The dose of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should not be adjusted without consulting with a physician.
4. NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should be swallowed whole (not cut, broken, crushed, dissolved, divided, or chewed) due to the risk of fatal tapentadol overdose.
5. Patients should be advised to report episodes of breakthrough pain and adverse experiences occurring during therapy. Individualization of dosage is essential to make optimal use of this medication.
6. Patients should be advised not to combine NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release with alcohol or other central nervous system depressants (sleep aids, tranquilizers) because dangerous additive effects may occur, resulting in serious injury or death.
7. Patients should be advised that serious anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions during tapentadol treatment have rarely been reported with symptoms such as skin redness, blisters, rash, hives, swollen face, throat tightness, dyspnea, and wheezing. Tapentadol treatment should be discontinued if such symptoms occur. Patients with a history of anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions to any other medications may be at increased risk and should be closely monitored.
8. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release may increase the risk of seizures, particularly when taken above the recommended dose range or in combination with SSRIs, tricyclic antidepressants or other tricyclic compounds or with other opioids.
9. Patients should be advised to consult their physician or pharmacist if other medications are being used or will be used with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release.
10. Patients should be advised that if they have been receiving treatment with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release and cessation of therapy is indicated, it may be appropriate to taper the NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release dose, rather than abruptly discontinue it, due to the risk of precipitating withdrawal symptoms.
11. Patients should be advised of the most common adverse events that may occur while taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release: nausea, dizziness, constipation, headache and somnolence.
12. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release may cause drowsiness, dizziness, or lightheadedness and may impair mental and/or physical ability required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks (e.g., driving, operating machinery). Patients started on NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release or patients whose dose has been adjusted should be advised not to drive a car or operate machinery unless they are tolerant to the effects of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release.
13. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release is a potential drug of abuse. They should protect it from theft or misuse.
14. Patients should be advised that NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should never be given to anyone other than the individual for whom it was prescribed.

15. Women of childbearing potential who become or are planning to become pregnant should be advised to consult a physician prior to initiating or continuing therapy with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Women who are breastfeeding or pregnant should not use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

16. Patients should be informed that NUCYNTA® Extended-Release could cause seizures if they are at risk for seizure or have epilepsy. Such patients should be advised to use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with care. Patients should be advised to stop taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release if they have a seizure while taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and seek medical help immediately.

Peri-Operative Considerations

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is contraindicated for peri-operative pain relief. In the case of planned chordotomy or other pain-relieving operations, patients should not be treated with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release for at least 48 hours before the operation and NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be used in the immediate post-operative period. If NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is to be continued after the patient recovers from the post-operative period, a new dosage should be administered in accordance with the changed need for pain relief. The risk of withdrawal in opioid-tolerant patients should be addressed as clinically indicated (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Withdrawal Symptoms).

The administration of analgesics in the peri-operative period should be managed by healthcare providers with adequate training and experience (e.g., by an anesthesiologist).

Renal

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release has not been studied in controlled efficacy studies in patients with severe renal impairment; therefore, its use in this population is contraindicated (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS, 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Renal Impairment, and 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency).

Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential

See sections 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS and 7.1.1. Pregnant Women.

Fertility

Animal data with tapentadol did not show an alteration of fertility at any dose level (See section 16. NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY, Impairment of Fertility).

- **Function**

Long-term use of opioids may be associated with decreased sex hormone levels and symptoms such as low libido, erectile dysfunction, or infertility (see 8. ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post-Marketing Adverse Reactions).

Respiratory

Respiratory Depression

Serious, life threatening, or fatal respiratory depression has been reported with the use of opioids, even when used as recommended. Respiratory depression from opioid use, if not immediately recognized and treated, may lead to respiratory arrest and death. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) retention from opioid-induced respiratory depression can exacerbate the sedating effects of opioids.

Respiratory depression is a potential problem in elderly or debilitated patients as well as in those suffering from conditions accompanied by hypoxia or hypercapnia when even moderate therapeutic doses may dangerously decrease pulmonary ventilation.

NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should be administered with extreme caution to patients with conditions accompanied by hypoxia, hypercapnia, or decreased respiratory reserve such as: asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cor pulmonale, severe obesity, sleep apnea syndrome, myxedema, kyphoscoliosis, CNS depression or coma. In these patients, even usual therapeutic doses of opioids may decrease respiratory drive while simultaneously increasing airway resistance to the point of apnea. Alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered, and NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release should be employed only under careful medical supervision at the lowest effective dose in such patients.

While serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression can occur at any time during the use of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release, the risk is greatest during the initiation of therapy or following a dose increase. Patients should be closely monitored for respiratory depression when initiating therapy with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release and following dose increases.

Severe pain antagonizes the respiratory-depressant effects of opioids. However, should pain suddenly subside, these effects may rapidly become manifest. Patients who are scheduled for regional anesthetic procedures or other interruptions of pain transmission pathways should not receive NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release within 24 hours of the procedure. Concomitant administration of tapentadol with other opioid analgesics is associated with an increased risk of respiratory failure. Therefore, it is important to reduce the dose of tapentadol when other opioid analgesics are given concomitantly.

To reduce the risk of respiratory depression, proper dosing and titration of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release are essential (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). Overestimating the NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release dose when converting patients from another opioid product can result in fatal overdose with the first dose. Respiratory depression has also been reported with the use of modified-release opioids even when used as recommended and not misused or abused.

If respiratory depression does occur, it should be treated as an overdose. If naloxone is to be administered, use cautiously because it may precipitate seizures (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Seizure Risk and 5. OVERDOSAGE).

Sleep Apnea

Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders such as sleep apnea syndromes (including central sleep apnea [CSA]) and hypoxia (including sleep-related hypoxia). Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent fashion. Evaluate patients on an ongoing basis for the onset of a new sleep apnea, or a worsening of an existing sleep apnea. In these patients, consider reducing or stopping the opioid treatment if appropriate, using best practices for tapering of opioids (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage; 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Dependence/Tolerance).

Risk of Overdosage

Serious potential consequences of overdosage with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release are central nervous system depression, respiratory depression and death. In treating an overdose, primary attention should be given to maintaining adequate ventilation along with general supportive treatment (see 5. OVERDOSAGE).

Do not prescribe NUCYNTA® Extended-Release for patients who are suicidal or addiction prone.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be taken in doses higher than those recommended by the physician. The judicious prescribing of tapentadol is essential to the safe use of this drug.

Withdrawal Symptoms

The opioid withdrawal syndrome may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy, and is characterized by some or all of the following: restlessness, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, yawning, perspiration, chills, myalgia, and mydriasis. Other symptoms also may develop, including irritability, anxiety, backache, joint pain, weakness, abdominal cramps, insomnia, nausea, vomiting, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nervousness, sneezing, tremors, palpitations, fever, diarrhea, increased blood pressure or respiratory rate.

Generally, tolerance and/or withdrawal are more likely to occur the longer a patient is on continuous opioid therapy. Patients should be cautioned about the possibility of experiencing withdrawal symptoms and counselled accordingly.

Patients on prolonged therapy should be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. Clinical experience suggests that withdrawal symptoms may be relieved by reinstatement of opioid therapy followed by a gradual, tapered dose reduction of the medication combined with symptomatic support.

7.1 Special Populations

7.1.1 Pregnant Women

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome). The safety of tapentadol in pregnancy has not been studied. Therefore, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is contraindicated in pregnant women and prior to or during labour.

7.1.2 Breast-feeding

There is no information on the excretion of tapentadol in human milk. Therefore, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is contraindicated during breast-feeding. Life-threatening respiratory depression may occur in the infant if opioids are administered to the mother. Naloxone, a drug that counters the effects of opioids, should be readily available if NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is used in this population.

7.1.3 Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

7.1.4 Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age)

In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release dosing for elderly patients with normal renal and hepatic function is the same as for younger adult patients with normal renal and hepatic function. Such patients should be monitored closely, particularly when initiating and titrating NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and when this drug is given concomitantly with other opioids or drugs that depress respiration. Of the total number of patients in Phase 2/3 double-blind, multiple-dose clinical studies of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, 28% (1023/3613) were 65 years and over, while 7% (245/3613) were 75 years and over. No overall differences in effectiveness or tolerability were observed between these patients and younger patients (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Special Populations and Conditions).

8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release was studied in nine multiple-dose, active- or placebo-controlled Phase 2/3 studies. Patients were treated with doses ranging from 21.5 mg to 250 mg of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release dosed twice a day. A total of 3613 patients with moderate to severe pain were treated with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, including 227 with exposure for more than 1 year. More than 60% of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated subjects were opioid naïve (see 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Initiation of Therapy, Patients Currently Not Taking Opioid Analgesics (Opioid Naïve)). The population was 18 to 91 years old (mean age 57.4 years).

Based on data from the double-blind, placebo- and/or active-controlled studies that administered multiple doses of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, 64.4% of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated patients experienced adverse events. These were predominantly of mild and moderate severity. The most common adverse events (reported by ≥10% in any NUCYNTA® Extended-Release dose group) were: nausea, dizziness, constipation and headache.

No deaths were reported during the treatment period or within 30 days after treatment discontinuation in NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated groups. Approximately 2.5% of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated patients experienced a serious adverse event during the Phase 2/3 multi-dose studies vs. 1.0% on placebo.

Approximately 18% of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated patients and 6% of patients on placebo with adverse events discontinued from the Phase 2/3 multi-dose studies. The most common reasons for discontinuation due to adverse events in the studies described above (reported by ≥1% in any NUCYNTA® Extended-Release dose group) for NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and placebo-treated patients were nausea (4.3% vs. 1.3%), dizziness (3.1% vs. 0.7%), vomiting (2.8% vs. 0.5%), somnolence

(2.0% vs. 0.2%), constipation (1.4% vs. 0.2%), headache (1.2% vs. 0.3%) and fatigue (1.2% vs. 0.3%), respectively.

Withdrawal symptoms may occur if an opioid analgesic is discontinued abruptly. In all NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release clinical studies, all treatment was discontinued following patient exposure up to 1 year, without a requirement for a tapering regimen. In all Phase 2/3 NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release studies, patients taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release who stopped abruptly without initiating alternative opioid therapy were assessed for withdrawal symptoms between 2 to 4 days after discontinuation, and then between 5 to 14 days after discontinuation, using the Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale. There were 635 patients in the NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release group assessed between Day 2 and Day 4 after abrupt cessation of treatment with 11.8% and 2.0% of patients having mild or moderate withdrawal, respectively. Assessments on Day 5 or later were available for 1145 patients treated with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release (mild, 5.1%; moderate 0.3%). Withdrawal symptoms may be reduced by further tapering NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release.

8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, they may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in real-world use.

Double-Blind Studies

Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) reported in $\geq 1\%$ of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release treated patients with moderate to severe pain from eight double-blind, active and/or placebo-controlled studies are summarized in Table 1, if they occurred at an equivalent or higher rate with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release than with placebo. These adverse events were included regardless of any causal relationship to NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release.

Table 3: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events Reported by $\geq 1\%$ of NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release Treated Patients in Phase 2/3 Double-Blind (Placebo- and/or Active-Controlled) Multiple-Dose Clinical Studies		
System/Organ Class MedDRA Preferred Term	NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release (n=2328) %	Placebo (n=1498)%
Any ADR		
Ear and labyrinth disorders		
Vertigo	2.2	0.8
Gastrointestinal disorders		
Nausea	18.0	8.5
Constipation	9.9	5.7
Vomiting	6.9	2.9
Dry mouth	4.6	1.7
General disorders and administration site conditions		
Fatigue	5.4	3.2

Table 3: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events Reported by ≥1% of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release Treated Patients in Phase 2/3 Double-Blind (Placebo- and/or Active-Controlled) Multiple-Dose Clinical Studies

System/Organ Class MedDRA Preferred Term	NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (n=2328) %	Placebo (n=1498)%
Asthenia	1.8	0.7
Chills	1.1	0.2
Infections and infestations		
Bronchitis	1.1	0.9
Influenza	1.0	0.7
Investigations		
Electrocardiogram QT prolonged	1.0	0.3
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		
Decreased appetite	1.5	0.5
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Pain in extremity	1.5	1.3
Myalgia	1.0	0.6
Nervous system disorders		
Dizziness	11.8	5.1
Headache	11.4	11.3
Somnolence	8.2	2.9
Tremor	1.4	0.2
Lethargy	1.2	0.2
Psychiatric disorders		
Insomnia	3.5	1.9
Anxiety	2.7	0.9
Restlessness	1.0	0.2
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders		
Pharyngolaryngeal pain	1.1	1.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Hyperhidrosis	4.8	1.1
Pruritus	3.9	1.3
Rash	1.0	0.8
Vascular disorders		
Hot flush	1.3	0.3

8.3 Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

The following treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs), which have been included regardless of any causal relationship to tapentadol, occurred in less than 1% in NUCYNTA® Extended-Release treated patients in the double-blind, placebo- or active-controlled clinical studies and were observed at a higher incidence with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release than with placebo:

- **Cardiac disorders:** tachycardia, bradycardia, extrasystoles
- **Ear and labyrinth disorders:** tinnitus
- **Endocrine disorders:** hypothyroidism
- **Eye disorders:** vision blurred, lacrimation increased, dry eye
- **Gastrointestinal disorders:** food poisoning, hematochezia, gastric disorder, rectal hemorrhage
- **General disorders and administration site conditions:** malaise, feeling jittery, drug withdrawal syndrome, feeling cold, chest pain, feeling hot, feeling abnormal, feeling of body temperature change, thirst, sluggishness
- **Infections and infestations:** gastroenteritis, cystitis, rhinitis, viral infection, localized infection, pneumonia, tooth infection, pharyngitis streptococcal, tooth abscess, infection
- **Injury, poisoning and procedural complications:** contusion, muscle strain, excoriation
- **Investigations:** blood pressure increased, gamma glutamyltransferase increased, weight decreased, electrocardiogram abnormal, electrocardiogram T-wave abnormal, blood calcium increased
- **Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** anorexia, dehydration, hypoglycemia, hypokalemia
- **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** neck pain, bone pain, muscle twitching, osteoarthritis, muscular weakness, musculoskeletal chest pain
- **Nervous system disorders:** disturbance in attention, migraine, dysgeusia, paraesthesia, hypoesthesia, restless legs syndrome, syncope, balance disorder, sedation, depressed level of consciousness, hypersomnia, memory impairment, mental impairment, tension headache
- **Psychiatric disorders:** depression, sleep disorder, depressed mood, nervousness, abnormal dreams, nightmare, agitation, disorientation, hallucination, stress, euphoric mood, libido decreased
- **Renal and urinary disorders:** dysuria, hematuria
- **Reproductive system and breast disorders:** erectile dysfunction
- **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** dyspnea, rhinorrhea, yawning, wheezing, hiccups
- **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** pruritus generalized, erythema, night sweats, piloerection, eczema, urticaria, rash macular
- **Vascular disorders:** pallor

QTc Interval in Healthy Volunteers: In a thorough QT study in healthy volunteers under stringent study conditions, tapentadol showed no clinically relevant effect on the QTc interval (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Cardiac Safety).

Seizure occurred in one volunteer with a history of seizure in a Phase 1 study.

8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

Adverse events identified during post-marketing experience with tapentadol are included in Table 4. Because these events are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

In Table 4, based on patient treatment years, the frequencies are provided according to the following convention:

Very common	≥1/10
Common	≥1/100 and <1/10
Uncommon	≥1/1000 and <1/100
Rare	≥1/10,000, <1/1000
Very Rare	<1/10,000
Not known	(cannot be estimated from the available data)

Table 4: Adverse Events Identified During Post-Marketing Experience with Tapentadol

Gastrointestinal disorders	
<i>Rare</i>	Diarrhea
Immune system disorders	
<i>Uncommon</i>	Hypersensitivity (including rare events of angioedema, anaphylaxis and anaphylactic shock)
Psychiatric disorders	
<i>Rare</i>	Hallucination
<i>Very rare</i>	Panic attack
<i>Not known</i>	Delirium
Nervous system disorders	
<i>Uncommon</i>	Headache
Cardiac disorders	
<i>Rare</i>	Palpitations

Androgen deficiency:

Chronic use of opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis, leading to androgen deficiency that may manifest as low libido, impotence, erectile dysfunction, amenorrhea, or infertility. The causal role of opioids in the clinical syndrome of hypogonadism is unknown because the various medical, physical, lifestyle, and psychological stressors that may influence gonadal hormone levels have not been adequately controlled for in studies conducted to date. Patients presenting with symptoms of androgen deficiency should undergo laboratory evaluation.

Hypersensitivity:

There have been reports of hypersensitivity (e.g., anaphylaxis, angioedema, anaphylactic shock), including fatalities, in some patients during tapentadol treatment. Reported symptoms included skin redness, blisters, rash, hives, swollen face, throat tightness, dyspnea, and wheezing. Tapentadol treatment should be discontinued if such symptoms occur. Patients with hypersensitivity to tapentadol, or any other ingredient of the formulation or component of the container, should not take NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS and 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hypersensitivity). For a complete listing of ingredients, see the 6. DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING section of the Product Monograph.

Serotonin Toxicity (also known as Serotonin syndrome):

Cases of serotonin toxicity/serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition, has been reported with tapentadol when used concomitantly with other serotonergic agents such as SSRI's and MAOIs.

Suicidality:

Suicidal ideation has been reported during post-market use of tapentadol. A causal relationship between suicidal ideation and tapentadol drug exposure has not been established based on data from clinical trials and post-marketing reports.

9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

9.1 Serious Drug Interactions

- Use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with caution in patients currently using specified centrally-acting drugs or alcohol.
- Do not use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release in patients currently using or within 14 days of using a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI).

9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

Tapentadol is mainly metabolized by glucuronidation, a system with a very high capacity which is not easily saturated even in disease. As therapeutic concentrations of drugs that are subject to glucuronidation are generally well below the concentrations needed for potential inhibition of glucuronidation, the risk of clinically relevant interaction between these drugs is generally low. The following substances have been included in a set of interaction studies without any clinically significant finding: acetaminophen, acetylsalicylic acid, naproxen and probenecid. The pharmacokinetics of tapentadol were not affected when gastric pH or gastrointestinal motility were increased by omeprazole and metoclopramide, respectively.

Plasma protein binding of tapentadol is low (approximately 20%). Therefore, the likelihood of pharmacokinetic drug-drug interactions by displacement from the protein binding site is low.

Interactions with Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol):

Concomitant use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with other pure mu-opioid agonists, mixed opioid agonists/antagonists (such as pentazocine, nalbuphine), or partial mu-opioid agonists has not been studied.

In vitro dissolution studies have demonstrated that NUCYNTA® Extended-Release does not release tapentadol more rapidly in 0.050 M phosphate buffer pH 6.8 containing up to 40% ethanol than in 0.050 M phosphate buffer pH 6.8. In vitro studies may not predict in vivo effects.

Patients receiving other opioid agonist analgesics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines, antiemetics, benzodiazepines, other tranquilizers, sedatives, hypnotics, or other CNS depressants (including alcohol) concomitantly with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may experience additive CNS depression. Interactive effects resulting in respiratory depression, hypotension, profound sedation, or coma may result if these drugs are taken in combination with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. If such combined therapy is contemplated, a dose reduction of one or both agents should be considered. The use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with alcoholic beverages or prescription or non-prescription products containing alcohol should be avoided (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions

The concomitant use of alcohol should be avoided. Due to its mu-opioid agonist activity, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may be expected to increase the sedative effects of alcohol (see 3. SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX).

9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

Drugs Metabolized by Cytochrome P450 Enzymes:

In vitro investigations indicate that tapentadol does not inhibit or induce P450 enzymes. Thus, clinically relevant interactions mediated by the cytochrome P450 system are unlikely to occur.

Drugs That Inhibit or Induce Cytochrome P450 Enzymes:

The major pathway of tapentadol metabolism is conjugation with glucuronic acid to produce glucuronides, a high capacity metabolic pathway. To a lesser extent, tapentadol is additionally metabolized to N-desmethyl tapentadol (13%) by CYP2C9 and CYP2C19, and to hydroxy tapentadol (2%) by CYP2D6, which are further metabolized by conjugation. Since only a minor amount of tapentadol is metabolized via the oxidative pathway, clinically relevant interactions mediated by the cytochrome P450 system are unlikely to occur.

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors:

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is contraindicated in patients who are receiving monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or who have taken them within the last 14 days due to potential additive effects on norepinephrine levels, which may result in adverse cardiovascular events (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Anticholinergic Drugs:

The use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with anticholinergic products (e.g., oxybutynin, ipratropium bromide, tiotropium, carbamazepine, etc.) may increase the risk of urinary retention and/or severe constipation, which may lead to paralytic ileus.

Alcohol Interaction Study:

An in vivo, cross-over study examined the effect of alcohol (240 mL of 40%) on the bioavailability of a single dose of 100 mg and 250 mg of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets in 19 healthy, fasted volunteers. After co-administration of a 100 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet and alcohol, the mean C_{max} value increased by 48% compared to control (consumed water instead of alcohol) with a range of 0.99-fold up to 4.38-fold. In addition, the 3 subjects (15%) with the highest C_{max} values were at least 2.3 times that of the control mean C_{max} value. The mean tapentadol AUC_{last} and AUC_{inf} were increased by 17%; the T_{max} and $t_{1/2}$ were relatively unchanged. After co-administration of a 250 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet and alcohol, the mean C_{max} value increased by 28% compared to control with a range of 0.90-fold up to 2.67-fold. The individual C_{max} value for 2 of these subjects (10%) were at least 2.6 times that of the control mean C_{max} value. The mean tapentadol AUC_{last} and AUC_{inf} were increased by 16%; the T_{max} and $t_{1/2}$ were relatively unchanged. However, concomitant use of alcohol must be avoided since NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is expected to have additive effects when used in conjunction with alcohol (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Serotonergic Agents:

Coadministration of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with a serotonergic agent, such as a Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor or a Serotonin Norepinephrine Re-uptake Inhibitor, may increase the risk

of serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Neurologic).

There have been post-marketing reports of serotonin toxicity/serotonin syndrome with the concomitant use of tapentadol and serotonergic drugs (e.g., selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors [SSRIs] and serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors [SNRIs]). NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can increase the risk of serotonin toxicity/serotonin syndrome when it is used concomitantly with serotonergic drugs such as SSRIs, SNRIs, and other serotonergic drugs such as tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), MAOIs (including linezolid, methylene blue and triptans) and with drugs that impair metabolism of serotonin. This can occur within the recommended dose (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Serotonin Toxicity/Serotonin Syndrome).

9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

No significant effects on the pharmacokinetics of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release were observed with administration of a high fat meal. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can be taken with or without food (see 10. CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Food Effect).

9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

10.1 Mechanism of Action

Tapentadol is a centrally-acting synthetic analgesic. Although its exact mechanism is unknown, analgesic efficacy is thought to be due to mu-opioid agonist activity and the inhibition of norepinephrine reuptake.

Tapentadol hydrochloride, the centrally-active analgesic (anti-nociceptive) agent has an apparent dual-mode of action. Tapentadol is a mu-opioid receptor agonist with a K_i (mean \pm SD) of $0.16 \pm 0.04 \mu\text{M}$, compared to morphine with a mean K_i of $0.009 \pm 0.0035 \mu\text{M}$, for the human mu-opioid receptor. In the GTP γ S assay using membranes from cells expressing recombinant human μ -opioid receptors, the potency (mean $EC_{50} \pm$ SD) of tapentadol is $0.67 \pm 0.15 \mu\text{M}$, compared to $0.022 \pm 0.003 \mu\text{M}$ for morphine.

Tapentadol also inhibits, in vitro, the reuptake of norepinephrine via the norepinephrine transporter. Both mechanisms are likely to contribute to the analgesic effects of the compound. In a microdialysis study in the rat, tapentadol elicited a dose-dependent increase of extracellular concentrations of norepinephrine whereas morphine did not increase extracellular concentrations of norepinephrine.

10.2 Pharmacodynamics

Tapentadol is a novel 3-[(1R, 2R)-3-(dimethylamino)-1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl]phenol with a dual mechanism of action, mu-opioid agonist and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor. It is 18 times less potent than morphine in binding to the human mu-opioid receptor and is 2-3 times less potent in producing analgesia in animal models. Tapentadol has been shown to inhibit norepinephrine reuptake in the brains of rats, resulting in increased norepinephrine concentrations. In preclinical models, the analgesic activity due to the mu-opioid receptor agonist activity of tapentadol can be antagonized by selective mu-opioid antagonists (e.g., naloxone), whereas the norepinephrine reuptake inhibition is sensitive to norepinephrine modulators.

In preclinical models, the analgesic activity due to the mu-opioid receptor agonist activity of tapentadol can be antagonized by selective mu-opioid antagonists (e.g., naloxone), whereas the norepinephrine reuptake inhibition is sensitive to norepinephrine modulators.

Tapentadol-O-glucuronide, the major metabolite in man has no mu-opioid binding affinity and has no effects on norepinephrine – and 5-hydroxy tryptophan uptake mechanisms, up to a concentration of 10 µM. Furthermore, there are no other metabolites which contribute to the analgesic activity of tapentadol. Tapentadol exerts its analgesic effects without a pharmacologically active metabolite.

Clinical Safety Pharmacology

Cardiac Electrophysiology

Thorough QT Study

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo- and positive-controlled crossover study, healthy subjects (N=61-63) were administered five consecutive doses of immediate-release tapentadol, NUCYNTA® IR, 100 mg every 6 hours, NUCYNTA® IR 150 mg every 6 hours, placebo and a single dose of moxifloxacin. At the doses studied, which produced mean±SD steady-state C_{max} values of 129±42.0 ng/mL for the 100 mg q6h dose and 197±89.1 ng/mL for the 150 mg q6h dose, immediate release tapentadol (NUCYNTA® IR) had no relevant effect on the QTc interval, the PR interval, or QRS duration

Evaluation in Phase 2/3 Clinical Trials

In Phase 2/3 multiple-dose clinical studies, mean blood pressure values were similar between tapentadol and placebo for up to 3 months, but the frequencies of cases with clinically significant changes in blood pressure (blood pressure increased or decreased, hypertension or hypotension), were higher in those on tapentadol. In an objective central electrocardiogram (ECG) evaluation of Phase 2/3 clinical studies, tapentadol showed no clinically relevant effect on the QTc interval.

Dependence

Tolerance and/or a withdrawal syndrome are more likely to occur the longer a patient is on continuous opioid therapy. Withdrawal symptoms included: nausea, diarrhea, insomnia, sweating, anxiety, arthralgia, and chills. Withdrawal symptoms may be reduced by tapering.

In a randomized, open-label, parallel group safety study, NUCYNTA® Extended-Release maintained stable analgesic scores throughout the 12-month duration of the study with stable average total daily dose, indicating no development of tolerance to the tested dose ranges of 50 to 250 mg twice daily. In another clinical study in patients with neuropathic pain (safety data only), patients were allowed to titrate within 3 weeks to optimal treatment dose followed by randomization to placebo or the same dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (100 to 250 mg) fixed for 12 weeks in the maintenance period.

Stable analgesia was maintained; there was no evidence for tolerance to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, either over 15 weeks in fixed dosing, or over one year with flexible dosing.

10.3 Pharmacokinetics

Absorption:

Mean absolute bioavailability after single-dose administration (fasting) of tapentadol is approximately 32% due to extensive first-pass metabolism. Maximum serum concentrations of tapentadol are observed between 3 and 6 hours after administration of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Dose proportional increases in serum AUC and C_{max} were observed following administration of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release as single doses over a range of 50-250 mg.

Steady-state exposure of tapentadol is attained following the third dose (i.e., within 36 hours after the first twice-daily multiple dose administration). Mean serum tapentadol AUC and C_{max} values accumulated approximately 1.86- and 1.6 times, respectively, following dosing with 250 mg every 12 hours, relative to single-dose administration. The serum accumulation ratio is primarily determined by the dosing interval and apparent half-life of tapentadol.

Food Effect:

The AUC and C_{max} increased by 6% and 17%, respectively, when NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets were administered after a high-fat, high-calorie breakfast. Phase 3 clinical studies were conducted without restrictions to food intake. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release may be given with or without food.

Distribution:

Tapentadol is widely distributed throughout the body. Following intravenous administration, the volume of distribution (V_z) for tapentadol is 540 ± 98 L. The plasma protein binding is low and amounts to approximately 20%.

Metabolism:

In humans, the metabolism of tapentadol is extensive. About 97% of the parent compound is metabolized. Tapentadol is mainly metabolized via Phase 2 pathways, and only a small amount is metabolized by Phase 1 oxidative pathways. The major pathway of tapentadol metabolism is conjugation with glucuronic acid to produce glucuronides. After oral administration, approximately 70% (55% O-glucuronide and 15% sulfate of tapentadol) of the dose is excreted in urine in the conjugated form. A total of 3% of drug was excreted in urine as unchanged drug. Tapentadol is additionally metabolized to N-desmethyl tapentadol (13%) by CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 and to hydroxy tapentadol (2%) by CYP2D6, which are further metabolized by conjugation. Therefore, drug metabolism mediated by the cytochrome P450 system is of less importance than phase 2 conjugation. None of the metabolites contributes to the analgesic activity.

Elimination:

Tapentadol and its metabolites are excreted almost exclusively (99%) via the kidneys. The terminal half-life after oral administration is approximately 5.0 hours and the apparent clearance (CL/F) is on average 4449 (± 1199) mL/min across all doses of tapentadol extended-release. The total serum clearance of tapentadol after intravenous administration is 1530 ± 177 mL/min.

Special Populations and Conditions:

- **Pediatrics** (< 18 years of age): The pharmacokinetic profile of tapentadol in children has not been evaluated. No clinical studies with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release have been conducted in children. Therefore, use of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is not recommended in patients under 18 years of age.
- **Geriatrics** (≥ 65 years of age): The mean exposure (AUC) to tapentadol was similar in elderly subjects and young adults, with a 16% lower mean C_{max} observed in the elderly subject group compared to young adult subjects. Because elderly patients are more sensitive to opioid effects and more likely to have decreased renal and hepatic function, care should be taken in dose selection as recommended.
- **Sex:** Sex was not identified as a statistically significant covariate in the Population Pharmacokinetic Analysis of tapentadol.
- **Genetic Polymorphism:** Tapentadol is primarily eliminated through glucuronidation by several uridine diphosphate glucuronyl transferase isozymes. Although there are no direct data on the impact of genetic variation of single isozymes on the pharmacokinetics of tapentadol or its glucuronide metabolite, such effect is not expected. Due to the small contribution of CYP2C9, CYP 2C19, and CYP2D6 to the metabolism of tapentadol, a contribution of genetic polymorphism of these enzymes to variability in the pharmacokinetics of tapentadol is not expected.
- **Ethnic Origin:** No statistically significant effect of ethnic origin on any of the pharmacokinetic parameters was identified.
- **Hepatic Insufficiency:** Administration of tapentadol resulted in higher exposures and serum levels to tapentadol in subjects with impaired hepatic function compared to subjects with normal hepatic function. The ratios of tapentadol pharmacokinetic parameters for the mild and moderate hepatic impairment groups in comparison to the normal hepatic function group were 1.7 and 4.2, respectively, for AUC; 1.4 and 2.5, respectively, for C_{max} ; and 1.2 and 1.4, respectively, for $t_{1/2}$. The rate of formation of tapentadol-O-glucuronide was lower in subjects with increased liver impairment (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).
- **Renal Insufficiency:** AUC and C_{max} of tapentadol were comparable in subjects with varying degrees of renal function (from normal to severely impaired). In contrast, increasing exposure (AUC) to tapentadol-O-glucuronide was observed with increasing degree of renal impairment. In subjects with mild, moderate, and severe renal impairment, the AUC of tapentadol-O-glucuronide was 1.5-, 2.5-, and 5.5-fold higher compared with normal renal function, respectively (see 2. CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Mastication Study:

A single-center, open-label, single-dose, randomized, 2-way cross-over study was conducted to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics following mastication (chewing) of a 100 mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet in 24 healthy male subjects compared to the ingestion of an intact 100 mg tapentadol immediate-release (IR) tablet swallowed whole. The subjects received each single-dose in random order (washout period of 5 to 7 days between both single-dose administrations), under fasted conditions. Serial blood samples were collected from predose to up to 48 hours postdose for the measurement of tapentadol in serum. On a scale regarding difficulty of chewing the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet (easy, slightly difficult, moderately difficult, and very difficult), the majority of subjects (18/24; 75%) reported that chewing the tablet for up to 3 minutes was difficult (slightly, moderately, very) and unpleasant. Six of the 24 subjects found the tablet easy to chew. Of the 24

subjects, 20 (83.3%) described the taste of the tablet as “bitter.” However, all subjects except one chewed and swallowed the tablet successfully. The mean tapentadol C_{max} (55.8 ng/mL) following ingestion of the masticated 100-mg NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet was lower relative to the C_{max} produced by an intact 100-mg IR tablet swallowed whole (129 ng/mL), whereas there were no significant differences in the mean tapentadol AUC. Compared to the intact IR tablet swallowed whole, extended-release properties of the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet were not maintained in 5 subjects (20%), as mastication and subsequent swallowing of the chewed NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet resulted in the release of tapentadol. In 79% (19/24 subjects), the extended-release properties of the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet were maintained. Tapentadol C_{max} was approximately 32% higher in 2 subjects who chewed the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet, relative to the intact IR tablet swallowed whole. For all other subjects, the C_{max} was 13% to 82% lower for the chewed NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablet, relative to the intact IR tablet.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets are to be swallowed whole with sufficient volume of liquid and must not be chewed. Taking chewed NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets can lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of tapentadol (see 7. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and 4. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Storage and Stability

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets should be stored at 15-30°C.

Keep NUCYNTA® Extended-Release out of the sight and reach of children.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be kept in a safe place, out of the sight and reach of children before, during and after use. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should not be used in front of children, since they may copy these actions.

Disposal

Unused or expired NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should be properly disposed of as soon as it is no longer needed to prevent accidental exposure to others, including children or pets. If temporary storage is required before disposal, a sealed child-proof container, such as a biohazard waste container or a lockable medication box could be obtained from a pharmacy.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should never be disposed of in household trash. Disposal via a pharmacy take-back program is recommended.

12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Not Applicable.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

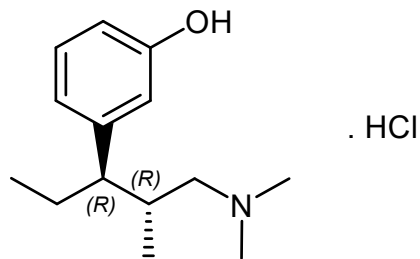
Drug Substance

Proper name: tapentadol hydrochloride

Chemical name: 3-[(1R,2R)-3-(dimethylamino)-1-ethyl-2-methylpropyl]phenol hydrochloride

Molecular formula and molecular mass: The molecular formula is C₁₄H₂₃NO•HCl. The molecular weight of tapentadol HCl is 257.80, molecular weight of tapentadol base is 221.34.

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Tapentadol hydrochloride is a white to off-white powder. Tapentadol hydrochloride is freely soluble in water, 0.1 N HCl, and simulated intestinal fluid (SIF), soluble in ethanol, sparingly soluble in methanol and slightly soluble in 2-propanol. The melting point ranges from 204 to 210 °C. The n-octanol:water partition coefficient log P value is 2.89. The pKa values are 9.36 and 10.37.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

14.1 Clinical Trials by Indication

Moderate to Severe Chronic Pain

Table 5 - Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in moderate to severe chronic pain

Study	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
Chronic low back pain PAI-3011	Randomized, double-blind, parallel-group; placebo and active	3-week titration to effect then 12 weeks maintenance with controlled dose adjustment NUCYNTA [®] Extended-Release: 100 mg to 250 mg BID Oxycodone CR: 20 mg to 50 mg BID Placebo	n=965 (Randomized n=981)	49.9 (18 to 89)	M: 406 F: 559
Pain from Osteoarthritis	Randomized, double-blind, parallel-group;	3-week titration to effect then 12 weeks maintenance with controlled dose adjustment NUCYNTA [®] Extended-Release:	n=1023 (Randomized n= 1030)	58.3 (40 to 91)	M: 405 F: 618

Study	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
of the knee PAI-3008	placebo and active	100 mg to 250 mg BID Oxycodone CR: 20 mg to 50 mg BID placebo			

Table 6 - Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in NUCYNTA® IR and NUCYNTA® Extended-Release Dose Conversion Study

Study	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
PAI-3019/KF3 9 Chronic low back pain	Randomized, double-blind, 2-period crossover	Titration phase (3-week titration to optimal effect and tolerability): NUCYNTA® IR 50 mg, 75 mg, or 100 mg q4-6h. Double-blind phase (two 14-day cross-over periods): NUCYNTA® IR 50 mg, 75 mg, or 100 mg q4-6h at dose reached during titration; NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, or 250 mg BID at the same total daily dose as for IR	n=116 (open – label) n=87 (for safety during double-blind treatment) n=60 (per protocol for non-inferiority)	53.6 years (21-88 years)	M: 51 F: 65

The efficacy and safety of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release have been established in two studies in patients with moderate to severe chronic pain. The studies were randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled studies – one in patients with low back pain (LBP) and one in patients with pain related to osteoarthritis. An additional double-blind crossover study was also conducted to test whether subjects with moderate to severe chronic low back pain titrated to stable efficacy and tolerability could be switched between NUCYNTA® IR (50 mg, 75 mg, or 100 mg every 4 to 6 hours) and NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, or 250 mg twice daily) while maintaining comparable efficacy.

Study PAI-3011 (chronic low back pain)

Study PAI-3011 was a randomized, multi-centre, double-blind, parallel-group study in patients with moderate to severe chronic LBP, comparing controlled dose-adjustment regimens of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (100 to 250 mg b.i.d.) to oxycodone controlled release (CR, 20 to 50 mg b.i.d.), and placebo b.i.d. Efficacy was evaluated in patients 18 years of age or older with chronic low back pain and a baseline pain score of ≥ 5 on an 11-point numerical rating scale (NRS), ranging from 0 to 10. Patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 treatments: NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, oxycodone CR, or placebo.

Following a screening and a wash-out period, patients randomized to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and oxycodone CR initiated the titration period with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg and oxycodone CR 10 mg twice daily respectively for three days. The dose was increased to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 100 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 20 b.i.d., or placebo b.i.d. for the next 4 days. Thereafter, increases in dose were allowed in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d., or placebo for the remaining of the three weeks titration period to achieve a stable optimal dose. Subsequent titrations in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d. were allowed over a 3-week titration period to a dose of 100 mg to 250 mg twice daily to achieve an optimal therapeutic dose. A 12-week maintenance period followed the titration period with allowed controlled dose adjustments in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d. every three days.

Efficacy was evaluated by comparing the difference in pain intensity from baseline to the last week of the maintenance period between NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and placebo, and the difference in pain intensity from baseline to overall maintenance period between NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and placebo. The primary efficacy analyses were performed using the last observation carried forward (LOCF) imputation method for missing values. Sensitivity analyses were performed with various imputation methods (baseline observation carried forward [BOCF], worst observation carried forward [WOCF], placebo mean imputation [PMI], and modified BOCF to evaluate the robustness of the observed treatment effects on the primary efficacy endpoints.

There were 981 patients randomized; 965 patients received study drug. The mean age of the study population was 49.9 (range 18 to 89) years; the mean baseline pain intensity score was 7.6 (SD 1.29). Approximately half of the patients (46.6%) were opioid-naïve (had not taken opioids during the three months prior to the screening visit).

The number of patients completing the study was 50.5% in the placebo group, 54.1% in the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release group and 43.3% in the oxycodone CR group. Lack of efficacy was the most common reason for discontinuation among placebo-treated patients (20.7%), whereas adverse events were the most common reason for discontinuation among the active treatment groups (16.7% and 32.3% for NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and oxycodone CR, respectively).

Study PAI-3008 (osteoarthritis pain)

Study PAI-3008 was a randomized, multi-centre, double-blind, parallel-group study, comparing controlled dose-adjustment regimens of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (100 to 250 mg b.i.d.) to oxycodone controlled release (CR, 20 to 50 mg b.i.d.), and placebo in patients with moderate to severe chronic pain due to OA of the knee. Efficacy was evaluated in patients 40 years of age or older with pain due to osteoarthritis and a pain score of ≥ 5 on an 11-point numerical rating scale ranging from 0 to 10. Patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to 1 of 3 twice-daily treatments: NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, oxycodone CR, or placebo.

Following a screening and a wash-out period, patients randomized to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and oxycodone CR initiated the titration period with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg and oxycodone CR 10 mg twice daily respectively for three days. The dose was increased to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 100 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 20 b.i.d., or placebo b.i.d. for the next 4 days. Thereafter, increases in dose were allowed in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d., or placebo for the remaining of the three weeks titration period to achieve a stable optimal dose. Subsequent titrations in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d. were allowed over a 3-week titration period to a dose of 100 mg to 250 mg twice daily to achieve

an optimal therapeutic dose. A 12-week maintenance period followed the titration period with allowed controlled dose adjustments in increments of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release 50 mg b.i.d., oxycodone CR 10 mg b.i.d. every three days.

Efficacy was evaluated by comparing the difference in pain intensity from baseline to the last week of the maintenance period between NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and placebo, and the difference in pain intensity from baseline to overall maintenance period between NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and placebo. The primary efficacy analyses were performed using the last observation carried forward (LOCF) imputation method for missing values.

There were 1030 patients randomized with 1023 patients received study drug. The mean age was 58.3 (range 40 to 91) years; the mean baseline pain intensity score was 7.3 (SD 1.31). Approximately two-thirds of the patients (67.6%) were opioid-naïve (had not taken opioids during the three months prior to the screening visit).

The number of patients completing the study was 61.4% in the placebo group, 57.3% in the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release group and 35.4% in the oxycodone CR group. Lack of efficacy was the most common reason for discontinuation among placebo-treated patients (16.7%), whereas adverse events were the most common reason for discontinuation among the active treatment groups (19.2% and 40.0% for NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and oxycodone CR, respectively).

Study PAI-3019/KF39 (Nucynta® IR and Nucynta® Extended-Release dose conversion study in low back pain model)

Study PAI-3019/KF39 was a randomized, double-blind, multi-center, 2-period, crossover study to establish the dose equivalence and direct conversion between NUCYNTA® IR and NUCYNTA® Extended-Release in subjects with moderate to severe Low Back Pain (LBP). Subjects were titrated open label to an optimal dose of NUCYNTA® IR (50 mg, 75 mg, or 100 mg every 4 hours or 6 hours, with a maximum total daily dose of 500 mg) for 21 days. This was followed by 2 double-blind fixed dose crossover periods (using the total daily dose given either as NUCYNTA® IR or NUCYNTA® Extended-Release in the titration phase) each for a 14-day duration. The primary efficacy endpoint, assessed using a non-inferiority test, was the mean average pain intensity score during the last 3 days of each double-blind treatment period, measured twice daily with the 11-point NRS.

A total of 116 subjects were enrolled in the open-label Titration Period, 88 subjects were randomized, 87 subjects were included in the double-blind Safety Analysis Set and 60 subjects were included in the Per-Protocol Analysis Set. For the patients in the open-label Safety Analysis Set, the median age was 53.0 years (range 21 to 88) and the majority of subjects were women (56%), white (77.6%), and under 65 years of age (74.1%). The mean pre-treatment pain intensity, based on the 11-point NRS, at the start of the open-label titration was 7.3. Slightly more than half of the subjects (53.4%) were opioid naïve, they had not taken opioids during the 3 months prior to the screening visit.

Table 7 - Results of studies in Moderate to Severe Chronic Pain (PAI-3011 and PAI-3008)

Primary Endpoints	Associated value and statistical significance for Drug at specific dosages		Associated value and statistical significance for Placebo or active control	
PAI-3011 (chronic low back pain)				
Change from Baseline to Week 12 of Maintenance	Mean (SD):	-2.9 (2.66)	Mean (SD):	-2.1 (2.33)
	LS Mean Change:	-2.9	LS Mean Change:	-2.1
	LS Mean Difference versus placebo (SE):	-0.8 (0.19)		
	95% CI (versus placebo):	[-1.22, -0.47]		
	P-value (versus placebo):	<0.001		
PAI-3008 (osteoarthritis)				
Change from Baseline to Week 12 of Maintenance	Mean (SD):	-3.0 (2.39)	Mean (SD):	-2.2 (2.54)
	LS Mean Change:	-2.9	LS Mean Change:	-2.3
	LS Mean Difference versus placebo (SE):	-0.7 (0.18)		
	95% CI (versus placebo):	[-1.04, -0.33]		
	P-value (versus placebo):	<0.001		

Study PAI-3011 (chronic low back pain)

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release provided significantly greater analgesia compared to placebo throughout the entire 12-week maintenance period. Results of the primary endpoint using additional imputation methods were consistent with the primary analysis with significant improvement of pain for the NUCYNTA® Extended-Release group compared with the placebo group for all imputations methods (BOCF, WOCF, modified BOCF, and PMI).

A significantly higher proportion of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release patients had a 30% or 50% reduction in pain score from baseline to the end of Week 12 of the maintenance period compared to placebo (NUCYNTA® Extended-Release vs. placebo: 39.7% vs. 27.1% and 27.0% vs. 18.9%, respectively).

Other secondary efficacy points such as, change from baseline to 12-week overall maintenance, BPI, and SF36 are supportive.

Study PAI-3008 (osteoarthritis pain)

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release provided significantly greater analgesia compared to placebo throughout the entire 12-week maintenance period.

A significantly higher proportion of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release patients had a 50% reduction in pain score from baseline to the end of Week 12 of the maintenance period compared to placebo (NUCYNTA® Extended-Release vs. placebo: 32.0% vs. 24.3%).

Other secondary endpoints, such as change from baseline to 12-week overall maintenance, 30% responder data, and WOMAC Health Survey were also supportive of efficacy.

Study PAI-3019/KF39 (Nucynta® IR and Nucynta® Extended-Release dose conversion study in low back pain model)

The total mean pain intensity score decreased from a pre-treatment value of 7.3 to a mean score of 4.2 after 3 weeks of open-label titration (before the start of the double-blind crossover) (n=60, per protocol). The estimated mean average pain intensity score over the last 3 days of treatment from the primary analysis per protocol was 4.0 for the period on NUCYNTA® Extended-Release and 3.9 for the period on NUCYNTA® IR. The estimated difference in mean primary endpoint values (mean average pain intensity score over the last 3 days of treatment: NUCYNTA® Extended-Release to NUCYNTA® IR) was 0.1 with a 95% CI of (-0.09, 0.28) which was within the pre-specified margin of non-inferiority (-2, 2). This study demonstrated that patients who have been titrated to a stable daily dose with NUCYNTA® IR and have achieved optimal analgesia with acceptable tolerability, can be directly converted to an approximately equivalent total daily dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, or vice-versa, if necessary, with equivalent efficacy.

15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

General Toxicology:

Studies were conducted in mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs and monkeys to establish the toxicological profile of tapentadol hydrochloride following administration via different routes.

In toxicological studies with tapentadol, the most common systemic effects of tapentadol were related to the mu-opioid receptor agonist and norepinephrine reuptake inhibition pharmacodynamic properties of the compound. Transient, dose-dependent and predominantly CNS-related findings were observed, including impaired respiratory function and convulsions, the latter occurring in the dog at plasma levels (C_{max}), which are in the range associated with the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD).

Acute and Repeat-Dose Toxicity Studies:

In acute toxicity studies in rodents with p.o. and i.v. administration, tapentadol HCl demonstrated a low acute toxicity. LD50 values were clearly above 300 (p.o.) or 40 (i.v.) mg/kg in mice and rats, respectively.

Tapentadol was evaluated in repeat-dose toxicity studies in mice, rats, dogs and monkeys up to a duration of 3, 6 or 12 months or 14 days, respectively. At high doses of tapentadol, transient, dose dependent and predominantly CNS-related findings, e.g., fearfulness, sedation or excited behaviour, recumbency and hunched posture, impaired respiratory function, rarely convulsions, were observed.

In dogs, salivation, vomiting and retching were additionally observed. The CNS- and gastrointestinal symptoms are concordant with the pharmacodynamic effects of MOR agonists. In rats, adaptive

changes of the liver were seen. These changes are considered to be related to the xenobiotic overload of hepatocytes due to substantial phase II metabolism and are not regarded as a sign of overt hepatotoxicity. Additionally; there was a lack of relevant tumour formation in the liver in both rodent species (rats and mice) in the 2-year carcinogenicity studies.

In dogs, transient prolongation of the QTc-time was observed in repeat-dose studies. The effects increased with dose and were significant only at the beginning of the studies. No other electrocardiographic findings were observed. Some late toxicity, including convulsions and deaths in rats and dogs occurred in the high dose groups with a delay of several hours following intravenous or oral administration. The cause of these deaths remained unclear, but is regarded as a result of exaggerated pharmacodynamic effects of the compound.

Carcinogenicity:

Tapentadol was administered to rats (diet) and mice (oral gavage) for two years. In mice, tapentadol HCl was administered by oral gavage at dosages of 50, 100 and 200 mg/kg/day (200 mg/kg/day = maximum tolerated dose in mice) for 2 years. Exposures based on mean plasma C_{max} were ~4.9x higher than the maximum recommended human daily dose. Exposure based on dose adjusted for body surface area (based on a 500 mg dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release to a 50 kg human) was ~1.6x higher in mice than the maximum recommended human daily dose. No increase in tumour incidence was observed at any dose level. In rats, tapentadol HCl was administered in the diet at dosages of 10, 50, 125 and 250 mg/kg/day for two years. Exposure based on dose adjusted for body surface area (based on a 500 mg dose of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release to a 50 kg human) was ~4.0x higher in rats than at the maximum recommended human daily dose. C_{max} values were not measured in this carcinogenicity study and therefore a direct C_{max} exposure multiple cannot be calculated. However, in 3- and 6-month oral gavage toxicity studies, at exposures similar to the AUC exposures in the rat carcinogenicity study, C_{max} exposures were on average ~2.5x higher than in humans at the maximum recommended daily dose. No increase in tumour incidence was observed at any dose level.

Genotoxicity:

Tapentadol did not induce gene mutations in bacteria, but was clastogenic with metabolic activation in a chromosomal aberration test in V79 cells. The test was repeated and was negative in the presence and absence of metabolic activation. The one positive result for tapentadol was not confirmed in vivo in rats, using the two endpoints of chromosomal aberration and unscheduled DNA synthesis, when tested up to the maximum tolerated dose.

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology:

Impairment of Fertility

Tapentadol HCl was administered intravenously to male or female rats at dosages of 3, 6, or 12 mg/kg/day (representing exposures of up to approximately 0.56 times in male rats and 0.50 times in female rats the exposure at the MRHD on an AUC basis, based on extrapolation from toxicokinetic analyses in a separate 4-week intravenous study in rats). Tapentadol did not alter fertility at any dose level. Maternal toxicity and adverse effects on embryonic development, including decreased numbers of implantations, decreased numbers of live conceptuses, and increased pre- and post-implantation losses occurred at dosages ≥ 6 mg/kg/day.

Developmental Studies

Tapentadol HCl was evaluated for teratogenic effects in pregnant rats and rabbits following intravenous and subcutaneous exposure during the period of embryofetal organogenesis. When tapentadol was administered twice daily by the subcutaneous route in rats at dose levels of 10, 20, or 40 mg/kg/day [producing up to 1.36 times the plasma exposure at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 500 mg/day for NUCYNTA® Extended-Release based on an area under the time-curve (AUC) comparison], no teratogenic effects were observed. Evidence of embryofetal toxicity included transient delays in skeletal maturation (i.e., reduced ossification) at the 40 mg/kg/day dose which was associated with significant maternal toxicity. Administration of tapentadol HCl in rabbits at doses of 4, 10, or 24 mg/kg/day by subcutaneous injection [producing up to 2.48 times the plasma exposure at the MRHD based on an AUC comparison] revealed embryofetal toxicity at doses ≥ 10 mg/kg/day. Findings included reduced fetal viability, skeletal delays and other variations. In addition, there were multiple malformations including gastroschisis/thoracogastroschisis, amelia/phocomelia, and cleft palate at doses ≥ 10 mg/kg/day and above, and ablepharia, encephalopathy, and spina bifida at the high dose of 24 mg/kg/day. Embryofetal toxicity, including malformations, may be secondary to the significant maternal toxicity observed in the study.

In a study of pre- and postnatal development in rats, oral administration of tapentadol at doses of 20, 50, 150, or 300 mg/kg/day to pregnant and lactating rats during the late gestation and early postnatal period [resulting in up to 2.28 times the plasma exposure at the MRHD on an AUC basis] did not influence physical or reflex development, the outcome of neurobehavioral tests or reproductive parameters. Treatment-related developmental delay was observed, including incomplete ossification, and significant reductions in pup body weights and body weight gains at doses associated with maternal toxicity (150 mg/kg/day and above). At maternal tapentadol doses ≥ 150 mg/kg/day, a dose-related increase in pup mortality was observed to postnatal Day 4.

Special Toxicology:

Dependence and Tolerance

Tapentadol is a mu-opioid receptor agonist. The potential to induce drug dependence and the abuse liability of tapentadol was studied in animal models in rats and monkeys. Tapentadol produced physical dependence as shown in an acute (mouse) and a chronic (rat) model. In both cases, however, tapentadol produced fewer withdrawal symptoms than morphine at equi-analgesic doses. In rat models of reward and reinforcement, tapentadol had potency comparable to morphine at equianalgesic doses. Tapentadol produced a conditioned place preference, was intravenously self administered, and generalized to a morphine cue (but not to an amphetamine cue) in a drug discrimination procedure.

Development of tolerance to the analgesic effects of tapentadol was much slower than that of morphine (at equianalgesic doses) in an acute and a chronic pain model in rats.

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

^NNUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release Tapentadol Extended-Release Tablets

Read this carefully before you start taking **NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release**.

Serious Warnings and Precautions

- Even if you take NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release as prescribed, you are at risk for opioid addiction, abuse and misuse. This can lead to overdose and death. Your doctor will only prescribe NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release if other non-opioid treatment options are not effective to manage your pain. To understand your risk of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse you should speak to your doctor.
- When you take NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release it must be swallowed whole. Do not cut, break, crush, chew or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.
- You may get life-threatening breathing problems while taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release, especially if not taken as directed. This is less likely to happen if you take it as prescribed by your doctor. Babies are at risk of life-threatening breathing problems if their mothers take opioids while pregnant or nursing.
- You should never give anyone your NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release. They could die from taking it. If a person has not been prescribed NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release, taking even one dose can cause a fatal overdose. This is especially true for children.
- If you took NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release while you were pregnant, whether for short or long periods of time or in small or large doses, your baby can suffer life-threatening withdrawal symptoms after birth. This can occur in the days after birth and for up to 4 weeks after delivery. If your baby has any of the following symptoms:
 - has changes in their breathing (such as weak, difficult or fast breathing)
 - is unusually difficult to comfort
 - has tremors (shakiness)
 - has increased stools, sneezing, yawning, vomiting, or feverSeek immediate medical help for your baby.
- Taking alcohol with NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release can lead to dangerous unwanted effects, serious injury, or even death. You should avoid taking alcoholic beverages or medications containing alcohol while on NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release therapy.
- Taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release with other opioid medicines, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other central nervous system depressants (including street drugs) can cause severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma, and death. You should avoid taking NUCYNTA[®] Extended-Release if you are taking other opioid medicines, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other central nervous system depressants.

What is NUCYNTA® Extended-Release used for?

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is used in adults to manage pain when:

- the pain is severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and
- other treatment options are not able to effectively treat your pain.

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is NOT used “as needed” to treat pain that you only have once in a while.

How does NUCYNTA® Extended-Release work?

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is a painkiller belonging to the class of drugs known as opioids. It relieves pain by acting on specific nerve cells of the spinal cord and brain.

What are the ingredients in NUCYNTA® Extended-Release?

Medicinal ingredient: tapentadol hydrochloride

Non-medicinal ingredients: Ammonium hydroxide, butyl alcohol, butylated hydroxytoluene, hypromellose, isopropyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, propylene glycol, shellac glaze, talc, titanium dioxide, Vitamin E, black iron oxide (50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg tablets), FD&C Blue #2 Aluminum Lake (100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, and 250 mg tablets), yellow iron oxide (150 mg tablets).

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release comes in the following dosage forms:

- Extended-Release Tablets: 50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg, and 250 mg of tapentadol (as tapentadol hydrochloride)

Do not use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release if:

- your doctor did not prescribe it for you
- you are allergic to tapentadol, to opioids, to any of the other ingredients of NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, or to any component of the container
- you have mild or short term pain that can be controlled by the occasional use of pain medications, including those available without a prescription
- you are going to have, or recently had, a planned surgery
- you have severe asthma, trouble breathing or any breathing problems
- you have a condition where the small bowel does not work properly (paralytic ileus) or you have severe pain in your abdomen
- you have bowel blockage or narrowing of the stomach or intestines
- you have a head injury, convulsive disorders or other risks for seizures
- you suffer from alcoholism or have delirium tremens
- you are pregnant or are in labour
- you are breastfeeding
- you are taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOi; certain medicines used for treatment of depression) or have taken them in the last 14 days before treatment with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release
- you have severe kidney problems
- you have severe liver problems
- you suffer from seizures
- you have severe central nervous system (CNS) depression

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have a history of using illicit or prescription drug or alcohol abuse
- are drinking or planning to drink alcoholic beverages or take medications that contain alcohol
- have or had severe lung problems
- have liver problems
- have heart problems
- have low blood volume or low blood pressure
- have past or current depression
- suffer from chronic or severe constipation
- have pancreas problems (e.g., pancreatitis)
- have or had breathing problems (e.g., slow or shallow breathing)
- have or had a head injury or problem (e.g., increased pressure in the brain or disturbed consciousness)
- have or had brain problems (e.g., brain tumours, stroke, transient ischemic attack, brain neoplasm or severe traumatic brain injury)
- have had an epileptic fits or seizures, or are at a higher risk of developing these
- have had serious allergic reactions to other medications (e.g., anaphylaxis)
- suffer from migraines
- have adrenal problems
- have sleep-related breathing disorders (e.g. central sleep apnea)
- are planning to undergo an anesthetic procedure
- have severe underactive thyroid (myxedema)
- are planning to become pregnant or to breastfeed

Other warnings you should know about:

Opioid dependence and addiction: There are important differences between physical dependence and addiction. It is important that you talk to your doctor if you have questions or concerns about abuse, addiction or physical dependence.

Driving and using machines: Before you do tasks which may require special attention, you should wait until you know how you react to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can cause:

- drowsiness
- dizziness or
- light headedness

This can usually occur after you take your first dose and when your dose is increased.

Disorder of the adrenal gland: You may develop a disorder of the adrenal gland called adrenal insufficiency. This means that your adrenal gland is not making enough of certain hormones. You may experience symptoms such as:

- nausea, vomiting
- feeling tired, weak or dizzy
- decreased appetite

You may be more likely to have problems with your adrenal gland if you have been taking opioids for longer than one month. Your doctor may do tests, give you another medication, and slowly take you off

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

Serotonin toxicity (also known as Serotonin syndrome): NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can cause serotonin syndrome, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition. It can cause serious changes in how your brain, muscles and digestive system work. You may develop serotonin syndrome if you take NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with certain anti-depressants or migraine medications.

Serotonin toxicity symptoms include:

- fever, sweating, shivering, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting;
- muscle shakes, jerks, twitches or stiffness, overactive reflexes, loss of coordination;
- fast heartbeat, changes in blood pressure;
- confusion, agitation, restlessness, hallucinations, mood changes, unconsciousness, and coma.

Opioid withdrawal symptoms: If you are converting from a previous opioid analgesic to NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, or converting from NUCYNTA® Extended-Release to another opioid, you may experience opioid withdrawal symptoms. The symptoms may include: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety and shivering. Contact your healthcare professional if you experience these symptoms when switching to or from NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

Seizures: NUCYNTA® Extended-Release can cause seizures, especially if you are at a higher risk for seizures or have epilepsy. Tell your healthcare professional if you have a seizure. They will stop your treatment accordingly.

Sexual function and reproduction: Long term use of opioids may lead to a decrease in sex hormone levels. It may also lead to low libido (desire to have sex), erectile dysfunction or being infertile.

Sleep apnea: Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders such as sleep apnea syndromes (including central sleep apnea [CSA]) and hypoxia (including sleep-related hypoxia).

Worsened pain: Taking opioids for pain can sometimes have the unintended effect of making your pain feel worse (opioid-induced hyperalgesia) even though your opioid dose has been unchanged or increased. This can also include feeling pain in new places in your body, or feeling pain from something that would not normally hurt, for example, feeling pain from clothing touching your skin. Tell your doctor if you notice a change like this in your pain while you are taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release:

- alcohol. This includes prescription and non-prescription medication containing alcohol. Do not drink alcohol while taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. It can lead to:
 - drowsiness,
 - depressed breathing,
 - unusually slow or weak breathing,
 - serious side effects, or
 - a fatal overdose
- other sedative medications which may enhance the drowsiness caused by NUCYNTA® Extended-Release
- other opioid analgesics (used to treat pain)

- cough medicines containing opioids such as codeine
- general anaesthetics (used during surgery)
- benzodiazepines (used to help you sleep or to reduce anxiety)
- antidepressants (used for depression and mood disorders). Do not take NUCYNTA® Extended-Release with MAO inhibitors or if you have taken MAO inhibitors in the last 14 days before treatment with NUCYNTA® Extended-Release (e.g., linezolid and methylene blue)
- other serotonin and norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors
- medications used to treat migraines (e.g., triptans)
- medications used to treat serious mental or emotional disorders such as schizophrenia (e.g., tranquilizers, hypnotics, and phenothiazines). Talk to your healthcare professional, if you are unsure.
- antihistamines (used to treat allergies)
- anti-emetics (used to prevent vomiting)
- medications used to treat muscle spasms and back pain (e.g., muscle relaxants)
- medications used to treat viral, fungal, and bacterial infections (e.g., anti-retroviral, anti-fungal and antibiotic drugs)
- St. John's Wort
- medications used to treat high blood pressure (e.g., central-acting agents)
- medications known as anticholinergic drugs (e.g., oxybutynin, ipratropium bromide, tiotropium, and carbamazepine)

How to take NUCYNTA® Extended-Release:

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release is only for oral use. You may take the tablets with or without food.

Always swallow NUCYNTA® Extended-Release tablets whole with sufficient liquid. **Do not cut, break, crush, chew or dissolve the tablet. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.**

Usual dose:

Your dose is personalized just for you. Be sure to follow your doctor's dosing instructions exactly. Do not increase, decrease, or stop your dose without consulting your doctor.

Your doctor will prescribe the lowest dose that works to control your pain. The usual dose is one tablet every 12 hours. Taking higher doses can lead to more side effects and a greater chance of overdose or death.

Your doctor may prescribe a different, more appropriate dose or interval of dosing, if this is necessary for you. If you feel that the effect of these tablets is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Review your pain regularly with your doctor to determine if you still need NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Be sure to use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

If your pain increases or you develop any side effects as a result of taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, tell your doctor immediately.

Stopping your Medication:

If you have been taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release for more than a few days you should not stop taking it all of a sudden. Your doctor will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

You should do it slowly to avoid uncomfortable symptoms such as having:

- body aches
- diarrhea
- goosebumps
- a loss of appetite
- nausea
- a feeling of nervousness or restlessness
- a runny nose or sneezing
- tremors or shivering
- stomach cramps
- rapid heart rate (tachycardia)
- trouble with sleeping
- an unusual increase in sweating
- heart palpitations
- an unexplained fever
- weakness
- yawning

By reducing or stopping your opioid treatment, your body will become more sensitive to opioids. If you start treatment again, you will need to start at the lowest dose. You may overdose if you restart at the last dose you took before you slowly stopped taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

Refilling Prescriptions for NUCYNTA® Extended-Release:

A new written prescription is required from your doctor each time you need more NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. Therefore, it is important that you contact your doctor before your current supply runs out.

Only obtain prescriptions for this medicine from the doctor in charge of your treatment. Do not seek prescriptions from other doctors unless you switch to another doctor for your pain management.

Overdose:

Signs of overdose may include:

- unusually slow or weak breathing
- dizziness
- confusion
- extreme drowsiness

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you miss one dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, then skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses at once. If you miss several doses in a row, talk to your doctor before restarting your medication.

What are possible side effects from using NUCYNTA® Extended-Release?

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking NUCYNTA® Extended-Release. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- drowsiness
- insomnia (difficult to fall asleep and/or stay asleep)
- dizziness
- nausea, vomiting, poor appetite, dry mouth
- headache
- problems with vision
- weakness
- uncoordinated muscle movement
- itching
- constipation
- low sex drive (libido)
- impotence (erectile dysfunction)
- infertility

Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about ways to prevent constipation when you start using NUCYNTA® Extended-Release.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom/effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
RARE			
Overdose: hallucinations, confusion, inability to walk normally, slow or weak breathing, extreme sleepiness, sedation, dizziness, floppy muscles/low muscle tone, cold and clammy skin			✓
Respiratory Depression (hypoventilation): Slow, shallow or weak breathing, blue lips			✓
Allergic Reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing, wheezing, drop in blood pressure, feeling sick to your stomach and throwing up			✓
Bowel Blockage (impaction): abdominal pain, severe constipation, nausea, vomiting, liquid stool, urge to move			✓

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom/effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
RARE			
bowels, poor appetite, weight loss, malaise			
Withdrawal: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety, shivering, cold and clammy skin, body aches, loss of appetite, sweating		✓	
Cardiac arrhythmias: fast, slow or irregular heartbeat, heart palpitations, shortness of breath		✓	
Hypotension (low blood pressure): dizziness, fainting, light-headedness, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, fatigue (may occur when you go from lying or sitting to standing up)	✓		
Serotonin toxicity: a reaction which may cause feelings of agitation or restlessness, flushing, muscle twitching, involuntary eye movements, heavy sweating, high body temperature (>38 °C), rigid muscles, coordination problems, uncontrolled muscle spasms, shaking, shivering, racing or fast heartbeat, high or low blood pressure, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tremor, coma, loss of muscle control			✓

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

- Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C). Keep in a dry place.
- **Keep unused or expired NUCYNTA® Extended-Release in a secure place to prevent theft, misuse or accidental exposure.**
- **Keep NUCYNTA® Extended-Release under lock, out of sight and reach of children and pets.**
- **Never take medicine in front of small children as they will want to copy you. Accidental ingestion by a child is dangerous and may result in death. If a child accidentally takes NUCYNTA® Extended-Release, get emergency help right away.**
- Do not use NUCYNTA® Extended-Release after the expiry date.

Disposal:

NUCYNTA® Extended-Release should never be thrown into household trash, where children and pets may find it. It should be returned to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

If you want more information about NUCYNTA® Extended-Release:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full Product Monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the distributor's website www.paladinlabs.com or by calling Paladin Labs Inc., at: 1-888-867-7426.

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Last Revised: July 30, 2021