FACT SHEET

Ocfentanil

April 2015

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A. General information

*Recent seized/collected/biological samples in Belgium*

Substance: Ocfentanil (mixture with caffeine and paracetamol)
Date of collection: March 2015
Date of analysis: April 2015
Product type: powder
Color: brown
Region: Dendermonde

*Created*
April 2015

*Updated /*

*Type*
Narcotic Drugs

*Group*
Opioids

*Name*
Ocfentanil (A-3217)

*Nature of substance*
Ocfentanil is a potent synthetic opioid substance structurally related to fentanyl. Compound with a methoxy group instead of a methyl group, and a fluorine atom placed on the benzene ring. When studied as a supplement to general anaesthesia, researchers concluded that ocfentanil had a similar mode of action to fentanyl and 3 micrograms of ocfentanil was approximately equivalent to 5 micrograms of fentanyl.

*Systematic chemical name*
N-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide

*Other names*
(Street name might be: Synthetic heroin)

B. Alerts

*Alerts*
*Belgium*: fatal intoxication linked to the consumption (sniffing) of Ocfentanil, March 2015. Reported by Eurofins forensic lab. A brown powder was found in the house of the victim, containing caffeine, paracetamol and Ocfentanil. Post-mortem blood analysis contained Ocfentanil.
Reports to EMCDDA

Belgium: On 8 April 2015, the Belgian NFP reported the analysis of this sample of Ocfentanil, found during the house-search of a victim of fatal intoxication.

The Netherlands: On 24 October 2013, the Dutch FP reported a seizure of white powder seized by the police in September 2013. It was a component of a paracetamol caffeine mixture sold at the drug market as synthetic heroin.

C. Pictures

D. Clinical information / Use & Risks

Usage
Ocfentanil (INN) is an opioid analgesic that is an analogue of fentanyl was developed in the early 1990s. It is similar to fentanyl in effects, producing strong analgesia and sedation, but is slightly more potent. Side effects of fentanyl analogues are similar to those of fentanyl, and include itching, nausea and potentially serious respiratory depression which can be life-threatening.

Belgian case of 2015 reported administration through sniffing.

Modes and scope of the established or expected use
Narcotic opioid

Health risks
Report of one fatality in Belgium, March 2015.
Easy overdose - Much stronger than heroin and stronger than fentanyl:
It is similar to fentanyl in effects, producing strong analgesia and sedation, but is slightly more potent, with 3µg/kg of ocfentanil being equivalent to 5µg/kg of fentanyl.

Other uses
E. Legal status
Currently still legal.
Will be added to the update of K.B. 1930 (under the group of fentanyl derivatives).

F. Chemistry

Other chemical names and variants

Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number:
CAS 101343-69-5

Molecular information

Molecular formula: C_{22}H_{27}FN_{2}O_{2}

Molecular weight: 370.46 g/mol

Identification and analytical profile:
Synthesis, manufacture and precursors

Physical description:
Powder;
has been described in a brown (reported by Belgium) and a white form (reported by The Netherlands)

H. Publications / References

PubMed PMID: 1875771

PubMed PMID: 2170652

Proposed Inn List 61 International Nonproprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Substances, WHO Drug Information Volume 3, Number 2, 1989