

BUPRENORPHINE

History	Buprenorphine tablets, under the brand name Temgesic, were widely used as an illicit drug, crushed and injected, especially in Scotland. It has since been reformulated and rebranded as Subutex and is a common prescribing choice for doctors in France and the USA. Increasingly popular in Britain as an alternative to methadone.
Street name	Subbies, temmies, bupe
Type	Opiate
Drug Effect	<p>Buprenorphine is a partial opiate agonist; it is a potent pain-killer. It binds powerfully to specific opiate receptors but only partially activates these receptors hence the 'partial agonist' name. This characteristic means that doses of buprenorphine can be given to fill opiate receptors, blocking other opiates (such as heroin) from working at them but with less risk of an opiate overdose</p> <p>Users experience feelings of warmth and well-being, relaxation and sleepiness. Negative effects include nausea, constipation, confusion, sweating, itching, mood swings and feelings of laziness. Blocks effects of heroin, inducing withdrawal symptoms.</p>
Dependency	YES
Description	Tablets for sublingual use. Swallowing buprenorphine is highly ineffective.
Street use	Can be crushed and snorted or injected.
Withdrawal	Yes, like all opiates, buprenorphine is addictive. Withdrawal symptoms vary and include depression, nausea and vomiting, muscle aches and cramps, insomnia, mild fever, lacrimation, rhinorrhea, profuse sweating, goose bumps, diarrhea, yawning, cravings.
Long term use	Constipation.
Overdose	Lower risk of overdose than other opiates/opioids as it does not repress respiration to the same extent.
Legal Status	Available on prescription.