Title:	Buprenorphine/naloxone film diversion and abuse rates are less than tablet
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Abstract:

Summary: Background: Buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual formulations are sometimes abused. Little is known about how formulation affects diversion and abuse.

Methods: Data from the Researched Abuse, Diversion, and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS) System Drug Diversion, Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), and Survey of Key Informants Patients (SKIP) programs from October 2010 June 2012 were analyzed. A Drug Diversion case was a law enforcement investigation involving a buprenorphine product. A treatment program event was a new patient who reported using buprenorphine to get high in the previous 30 days. Data were collected for buprenorphine tablets and buprenorphine/naloxone tablets and sublingual film. To adjust for drug availability, rates were calculated based on the number of persons filling prescriptions. Rates in year-quarters where all drug products were surveyed were averaged and compared across the 3 categories using negative binomial regression. Data from OTP and SKIP were combined for analysis.

Results: Results: The combination film had the lowest average rate in all programs. In the Drug Diversion program, cases involving combination tablets (Rate Ratio (RR): 12.3, 95% CI: 7.8 19.5, $p < 0.0001$) and single ingredient tablets (RR: 7.4, 95% CI: 4.6 12.0, $p < 0.0001$) were more common than cases involving combination film. Treatment program reports of buprenorphine abuse were more common for the single ingredient tablets (RR 6.2, 95% CI: 5.1 7.6, $p < 0.001$) and for combination tablets (RR 2.0, 95% CI: 1.6 2.4, $p < 0.001$) than for the combination film.

Conclusion: Diversion and abuse rates of buprenorphine and buprenorphine/naloxone tablets exceed those of buprenorphine/naloxone combination film.