



Title:	The Street Prices of Immediate and Extended Release Tapentadol are Lower than Other Schedule II Opioid Tablets/Capsules
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Abstract:

Aims: Tapentadol [Nucynta®] is a US DEA Schedule II analgesic with dual actions: mu agonist activity and norepinephrine reuptake inhibition. This analysis compares street prices of immediate release (IR) and extended release (ER) tapentadol to other Schedule II opioid tablets/capsules using data from the RADARS® System StreetRx Program.

Methods: StreetRx is a website that enables real-time collection, organization and display of street price data on diverted pharmaceutical products. Site users anonymously submit prices they paid or heard were paid for diverted prescription drugs. The median street price per milligram (mg) from reports submitted between 3rd quarter 2011 to 2nd quarter 2013 for ER tapentadol, IR tapentadol, and other Schedule II opioid tablets/capsules were calculated. Geometric mean street price per mg of tapentadol was compared to other Schedule II opioid tablets/capsules.

Results: There were 24 reports of IR tapentadol, 3 reports of ER tapentadol, and 1,172 reports of other Schedule II opioid tablets/capsules. The median street price per mg was \$0.20 for IR tapentadol, \$0.10 for ER tapentadol, and \$1.00 Other Schedule II opioid tablets. The geometric mean of other Schedule II opioid tablets/capsules (\$0.98, 95% CI: \$0.93-\$1.04) was 6.4 (95% CI: 4.5-9.2, p<0.001) times greater than the geometric mean of tapentadol products (\$0.15, 95% CI: \$0.11-\$0.22).

Conclusions: The number of reports and average street price per mg of tapentadol suggest that the demand for diverted tapentadol since 3rd quarter of 2011 is low compared to other Schedule II products. Continued surveillance of tapentadol is needed to determine whether these findings persist with the continued changes to opioid products.

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