

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

NUCYNTA[®] (tapentadol) tablets are:

- A strong prescription pain medicine that contains an opioid (narcotic) that is used to manage short term (acute) pain in adults and children 6 years of age and older who weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kg), when other pain treatments such as non-opioid pain medicines do not treat your pain well enough or you cannot tolerate them.
- An opioid pain medicine that can put you at risk for overdose and death. Even if you take your dose correctly as prescribed, you are at risk for opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse that can lead to death.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT NUCYNTA TABLETS

WARNING: SERIOUS AND LIFE-THREATENING RISKS FROM USE OF NUCYNTA TABLETS

Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse

Because the use of NUCYNTA tablets exposes patients and other users to the risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death, assess each patient's risk prior to prescribing and reassess regularly for the development of these behaviors and conditions.

Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression

Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of NUCYNTA tablets, especially during initiation of NUCYNTA tablets or following a dosage increase. To reduce the risk of respiratory depression, proper dosing and titration of NUCYNTA tablets are essential.

Accidental Ingestion

Accidental ingestion of even one dose of NUCYNTA tablets, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of tapentadol.

Risks From Concomitant Use With Benzodiazepines or Other CNS Depressants

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Reserve concomitant prescribing of NUCYNTA tablets and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.

Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

If opioid use is required for an extended period of time in a pregnant woman, advise the patient of the risk of NOWS which may be life threatening if not recognized and treated. Ensure that management by neonatology experts will be available at delivery.

Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)

Healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to complete a REMS-compliant education program and to counsel patients and caregivers on serious risks, safe use, and the importance of reading the Medication Guide with each prescription.

Important information about NUCYNTA tablets:

- **Get emergency help or call 911 right away if you take too much NUCYNTA (overdose) tablets.** When you first start taking NUCYNTA tablets, when your dose is changed, or if you take too much (overdose), serious or life-threatening breathing problems that can lead to death may occur. Talk to your healthcare provider about naloxone, a medicine for the emergency treatment of an opioid overdose.
- Taking NUCYNTA tablets 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.
- Never give anyone else your NUCYNTA tablets. They could die from taking it. Selling or giving away NUCYNTA tablets is against the law.
- Store NUCYNTA tablets securely, out of sight and reach of children, and in a location not accessible by others, including visitors to the home.

Do not take NUCYNTA tablets if you have:

- severe asthma, trouble breathing, or other lung problems.
- a bowel blockage or have narrowing of the stomach or intestines.

Before taking NUCYNTA tablets, tell your healthcare provider if you have a history of:

- head injury, seizures
- problems urinating
- abuse of street or prescription drugs, alcohol addiction, opioid overdose or mental health problems
- liver, kidney, thyroid problems
- pancreas or gallbladder problems

Tell your healthcare provider if you are:

- **noticing your pain getting worse.** If your pain gets worse after you take NUCYNTA tablets, do not take more NUCYNTA tablets without first talking to your healthcare provider. Tell your healthcare provider if the pain that you have increases, if you feel more sensitive to pain, or if you have new pain after taking NUCYNTA tablets.
- **pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** Prolonged use of NUCYNTA tablets during pregnancy can cause withdrawal symptoms in your newborn baby that could be life-threatening if not recognized and treated.
- **breastfeeding.** NUCYNTA tablets pass into breast milk and may harm your baby. Carefully observe infants for increased sleepiness (more than usual), breathing difficulties, or limpness. Seek immediate medical care if you notice these signs.
- living in a household where there are small children or someone who has abused street or prescription drugs.
- taking prescription or over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements. Taking NUCYNTA tablets with certain other medicines can cause serious side effects that could lead to death.

When taking NUCYNTA tablets:

- Do not change your dose. Take NUCYNTA tablets exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider. Use the lowest dose possible for the shortest time needed.

- For acute (short-term) pain, you may only need to take NUCYNTA tablets for a few days. You may have some NUCYNTA tablets left over that you did not use. See disposal information at the bottom of this section for directions on how to safely throw away (dispose of) your unused NUCYNTA tablets.
- Take your prescribed dose every 4-6 hours, as needed for pain, at the same time every day. Do not take more than your prescribed dose. If you miss a dose, take your next dose at your usual time.
- Call your healthcare provider if the dose you are taking does not control your pain.
- If you have been taking NUCYNTA tablets regularly, do not stop taking NUCYNTA tablets without talking to your healthcare provider.
- Dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused NUCYNTA Tablets by promptly flushing down the toilet, if a drug take-back option is not readily available. Visit www.fda.gov/drugdisposal for additional information on disposal of unused medicines.

While taking NUCYNTA tablets, DO NOT:

- Drive or operate heavy machinery, until you know how NUCYNTA tablets affect you. NUCYNTA tablets can make you sleepy, dizzy, or lightheaded.
- Drink alcohol or use prescription or over-the-counter medicines that contain alcohol. Using products containing alcohol during treatment with NUCYNTA tablets may cause you to overdose and die.

The possible side effects of NUCYNTA tablets:

- constipation, nausea, sleepiness, vomiting, tiredness, headache, dizziness, abdominal pain. Call your healthcare provider if you have any of these symptoms and they are severe.

Get emergency medical help or call 911 right away if you have:

- trouble breathing, shortness of breath, fast heartbeat, chest pain, swelling of your face, tongue, or throat, extreme drowsiness, light-headedness when changing positions, feeling faint, agitation, high body temperature, trouble walking, stiff muscles, or mental changes such as confusion.

These are not all of the possible side effects of NUCYNTA tablets. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088. **For more information, go to dailymed.nlm.nih.gov.**

See full [Prescribing Information](#), including **Boxed Warning on Addiction, Abuse and Misuse and other serious risks**, and the Medication Guide accompanying this piece or at Nucynta.com/IRpi. Speak to your healthcare provider if you have questions about Nucynta.