

Reader's Digest

HEALTH

Medications Pain Doctors Try to Avoid

Fentanyl Patches

"Fentanyl patches are extremely potent, addictive, and deadly. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine; however, it is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine! Very often, fentanyl patches are employed to treat patients in severe pain, and sometimes quite early in the process of pain management. This is dangerous, and I would not want any part of it as a patient. Among the more than 72,000 drug overdose deaths estimated in 2017, the sharpest increase occurred among deaths related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, with nearly 30,000 overdose deaths. In my professional opinion, fentanyl patches should generally be restricted to cases of cancer and palliative care."



—James Petros, MD, CEO & President, Allied Pain & Spine Institute, Clinical Instructor, Stanford Health Care



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