

Buprenorphine crossover and withdrawal regimen

Buprenorphine has a high affinity for opiate receptors and is able to displace methadone while at the same time blocking withdrawal effects. Buprenorphine also resides in the receptor long after elimination from blood, thus there is a mild protracted residual response. This is similar to but of less severity than with methadone.

	Total daily dose of buprenorphine		Total daily dose of buprenorphine	
	Crossover phase from methadone 30mg.		Crossover phase from methadone 20mg.	
Day 1	4mg		4mg	
Day 2	8mg		6mg	
Day 3	8mg		6mg	
Day 4	8mg		6mg	
	Withdrawal phase from methadone	Withdrawal from heroin £30	Withdrawal phase from methadone	Withdrawal from heroin £20
Day 1	6mg	4mg	4mg	4mg
Day 2	4mg	8mg	4mg	6mg
Day 3	2mg	6mg	2mg	6mg
Day 4	2mg	4mg	2mg	4mg
Day 5	1.6 mg	2mg	1.6 mg	2mg
Day 6	1.2 mg	0.8 mg	1.2 mg	0.8 mg
Day 7	0.8 mg	0.4 mg	0.8 mg	0.4 mg
Day 8	0.8 mg		0.8 mg	
Day 9	0.4 mg		0.4 mg	
Day 10	0.4 mg		0.4 mg	
2 days after the last dose of buprenorphine the patient can be started on naltrexone.				

Amass L, Bickel W K, Higgins S T and Hughes J R (1994), 'A preliminary investigation of outcome following gradual or rapid buprenorphine detoxification', Journal of Addictive Diseases, 13, 33-45.