

TO INJECT OR NOT TO INJECT, THAT IS THE QUESTION



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

To inject or not to inject, that is the question
2/6/2021

Disclosure Information

Nicholas Batson, MD MMM

No Disclosures
No Conflicts of Interest



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

Objectives

- ◆ Long acting Buprenorphine injection overview
- ◆ Patient selection
- ◆ Clinical Operations for shipping, storage, and administration.



SUBLOCADE (buprenorphine extended-release) injection

- ◆ What is Sublocade-

Indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe opioid use disorder in patients who have initiated treatment with a transmucosal buprenorphine-containing product, followed by dose adjustment for a minimum of 7 days.



Buprenorphine extended-release injection

The Matrix

- ◆ Abdominal subcutaneous injections
- ◆ The ATRIGEL[®] delivery system is a biodegradable 50:50 (DL-lactide-co-glycolide) polymer and a biocompatible solvent, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)
- ◆ Polymer creates a solid depot which contains buprenorphine



Buprenorphine extended-release injection

The Bump

- ◆ At injection site first 6-9 months then last less than 2-3 days.



Buprenorphine extended-release injection

- ◆ Pharmacokinetics

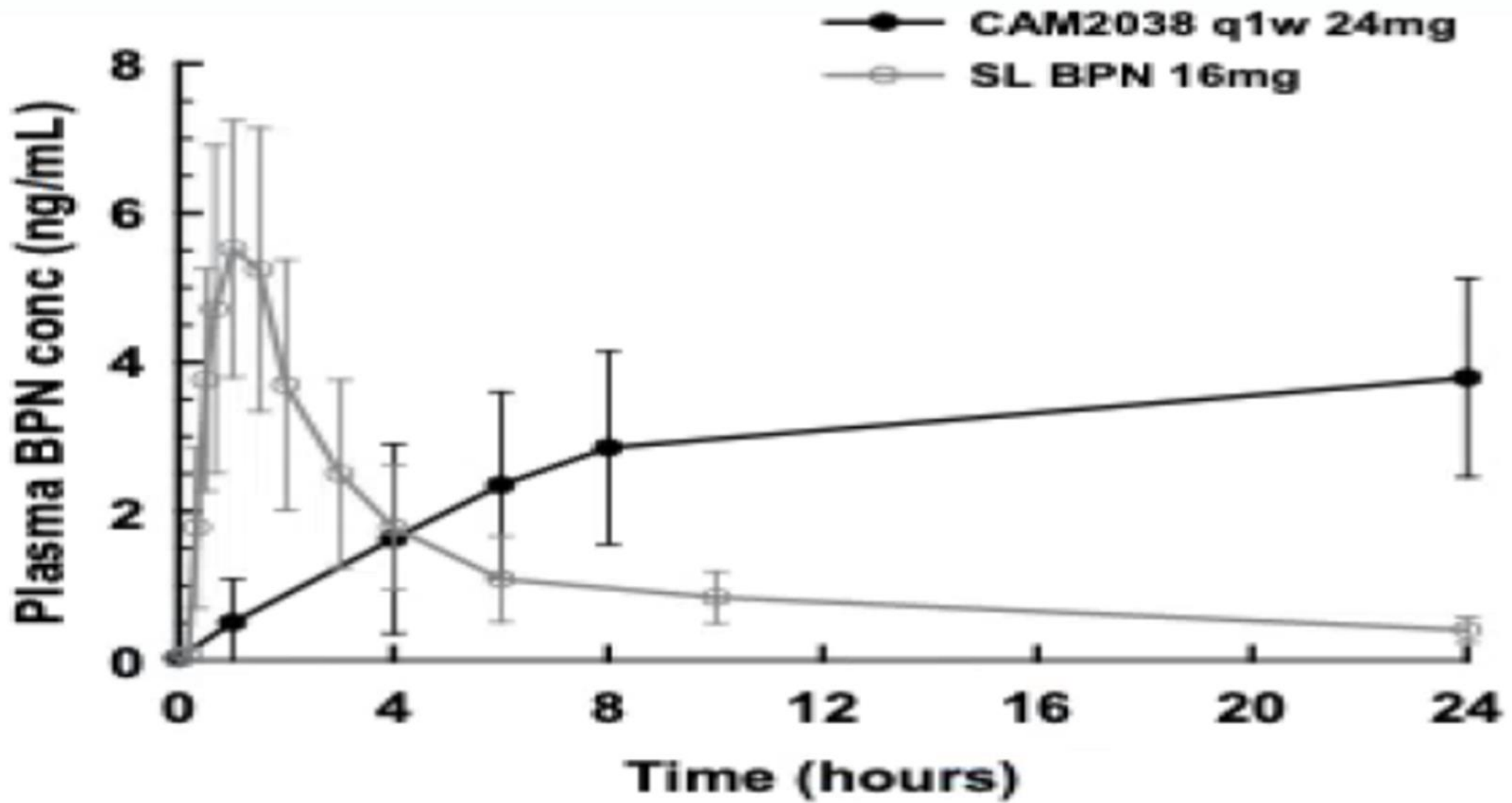
- ◆ Plasma Concentration

- ◆ Subutex 24mg Cavg 2.91 ng/ml
 - ◆ Sublocade 1st 300mg injection 2.19 ng/ml
 - ◆ Sublocade 100mg 3.21 ng/ml and 300mg 6.54 ng/ml

- ◆ Pharmacodynamics

- ◆ 75 to 92% occupancy of the mu-opioid receptors in the brain was maintained for 28 days, but variability present for the first couple of months.





Buprenorphine extended-release injection

Dosing

- ◆ 300 mg monthly for the first two months
- ◆ Followed by a maintenance dose of 100 mg monthly
- ◆ Patients on 8-24mg after a minimum of 7 days – initiation
- ◆ No maximum duration of maintenance but minimum of 4-6 months for of steady state.



Buprenorphine extended-release injection

Cost

- ◆ \$1700 per injection
- ◆ Long term healthcare savings
 - ◆ Hep C from substance use is diagnosed approximately 20 years later than non-substance use Hep C.
 - ◆ If 20 years is an estimate for developing late stage Hep C complications then a rough lifetime healthcare savings estimate for 11 patients could be \$614,130, transplant vs 3 months treatment



Buprenorphine extended-release injection

Labs

- ◆ Baseline Liver Function Tests and if remaining on 300mg qmonthly
- ◆ If moderate to severe hepatic impairment recommend discontinuing treatment.



The Other Long Acting Injection

BRIXADI (buprenorphine)

- ◆ Extended-release weekly (8mg, 16mg, 24mg, 32mg)
- ◆ Extended-release monthly (64 mg, 96mg, 128mg) injections
- ◆ All ≥ 2 ng/ml
- ◆ No loading dose or oral dose adjustment
- ◆ Liquid-crystalline gel, no refrigeration
- ◆ Subcutaneous injection site options buttock, thigh, abdomen, and upper arm
- ◆ FDA – tentative approval



The Research

J Addict Med. 2020 Sep-Oct; 14(5): e233–e240

- ◆ RECOVER Study - Participants receiving 12-month BUP-XR up to 75% likelihood of sustained opioid abstinence

JAMA Intern Med. 2018 Jun; 178(6): 764–773

- ◆ Compared with SL buprenorphine, depot buprenorphine did not result in an inferior likelihood of being a responder or having urine test results negative for opioids, 6% difference

Lancet. 2019 Feb 23;393(10173):778-790

- ◆ Clinical trial data, 39% abstinence rate vs 5% for placebo



Patient Selection

- ◆ Option for all patients – Patient preference
- ◆ Influence of behavioral components of recovery
 - ◆ TID – “I’m not ready”
 - ◆ Oral similar to Tobacco cessation
- ◆ Pharmacy refill issues
- ◆ Outpatient vs Inpatient
- ◆ Next phase of recovery
- ◆ Fear of withdrawal



Special Patient Populations

- ◆ Teens
- ◆ Pregnant Women
 - ◆ Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) – no studies
 - ◆ Breast milk concentration in lactating Mother's is less than 1% of mother's dose
- ◆ COVID -Mobile Sublocade injection (beat the dealers at there own game)
- ◆ Nausea - for patients with severe nausea on PO it does not seem to significantly reduce nausea, so likely a chemotactic issues not a GI



Patient Unique Qualities

- ◆ Michela - 3a4 rapid metabolizer
- ◆ The Humphrey Siblings – Matrix reaction
- ◆ April – Injection technique
- ◆ Kristin – 180mg of Methadone and 23 day injection



Adverse Event



Real World

- ◆ REMS
- ◆ Ordering
 - ◆ Specialty Pharmacy or Buy and Bill
 - ◆ Prior Authorization – Medicaid and Commercial
- ◆ Delivery – Injection site or Partner Facility
- ◆ Storage
 - ◆ Refrigerator space



Real World

- ◆ Missed Dose
 - ◆ Up to 2 weeks
 - ◆ Re –initiation - >4months after last injection
- ◆ Transition back to oral
 - ◆ Why?
 - ◆ Wait 26 days



Taper and discontinuing

- ◆ Stop and self-taper
 - ◆ Wait until after 6 injections
- ◆ Increase duration between injections
 - ◆ 5 to 6 to 7 to 8 weeks (consider stopping at 8-10 wks)
- ◆ Decrease dose
 - ◆ 100mg
 - ◆ 50mg
- ◆ Single injection for detox





Questions

