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(54) Title: TRANSDERMAL DELIVERY SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of treating pain in a patient by applying a transdermal therapeutic system for the transdermal administration of buprenorphine for 7 days on the skin of a patient, said transdermal therapeutic system comprising a buprenorphine-containing self-adhesive layer structure comprising A) a buprenorphine-impermeable backing layer, and B) a buprenorphine-containing matrix layer on said buprenorphine- impermeable backing layer, the matrix layer comprising a) a polymer base, b) buprenorphine, and c) a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, levulinic acid and mixtures thereof, in an amount sufficient so that said buprenorphine is solubilized therein to form a mixture, and the carboxylic acid buprenorphine mixture forms dispersed deposits in the polymer base, and C) a skin contact layer on said buprenorphine-containing matrix layer comprising a polymer-based pressure-sensitive adhesive, and optionally wherein the buprenorphine-containing self-adhesive layer structure contains said buprenorphine in an amount of less than 0.8 mg/cm2 buprenorphine base or an equimolar amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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