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## The Lollipop That Can Kill

Dr. Smith Talks About Fentanyl

REDONDO BEACH, Calif., May 12, 2008 - Gregory A. Smith, MD the Medical Director of Comprehensive Pain Relief Group (CPRG) wants parents to get a good look at this lollipop. Fentanyl is a narcotic that is 100-150 times more potent than morphine and can be deadly.

"The scary thing is that now when I see a group of teenagers sucking on a lollipop I have to wonder if it's a tootsie pop or a narcotic!" states Dr. Smith.

Fentanyl lozenges are a solid formulation of Fentanyl citrate on a stick in the form of a lollipop that dissolves slowly in the mouth. These lozenges are intended for opioid-tolerant individuals and are effective in treating breakthrough cancer pain. It is also useful for breakthrough pain for those suffering bone injuries, severe back pain, neuropathy, arthritis, and some other examples of chronic nonmalignant pain. It is most effective when the lozenge is consumed in 15 minutes. The drug is less effective if swallowed, as despite good absorbance from the small intestine there is extensive first pass metabolism, leading to an oral bioavailability of 33%.

As a physician who deals with chronic pain relief issues, Dr. Smith has seen more than his share of patients who are addicted to prescription painkillers. Over recent years it has become the focus of his practice. In spite of the transition of his practice, Dr. Smith has consciously decided to retain the name Comprehensive Pain Relief Group as it provides his clients with a certain amount of anonymity.

"Fentanyl lollipops like most drugs have an important and beneficial medical purpose states Dr. Smith. They become problematic when they are abused. I am hard-pressed to identify something that looks more innocent than a lollipop. However, misuse of a Fentanyl lollipop can be deadly."

Because Fentanyl is so strong it can have disastrous effects when used for recreational purposes. People can simply get sleepy, lie down and stop breathing from the sedation and respiratory depression caused by the drug. Talented compound pharmacists can make preparations of Fentanyl in the form of suckers, lozenges, syrups and gels for easy consumption that would not be noticed in a public setting. This is in stark contrast to someone who has to inject Heroin into a blood vessel. These preparations are usually prepared for patients that may not be able to tolerate pills or injections but when they fall into the wrong hands they can end up sold on the street as a competitor to Heroin, OxyContin and Vicodin.

The fastest growing segment of prescription drug abusers is kids between the ages of 13 and 17 because of the easy access kids have to prescription narcotics. Very often it's as accessible as the family medicine cabinet.

Dr. Smith hopes that he can reduce the amount of tragedies that misuse of this drug can produce, by educating parents to the look and danger of the Fentanyl lollipop.

About Comprehensive Pain Relief Group

Comprehensive Pain Relief Group (CPRG) has transitioned its focus to narcotic detoxification. This is because chronic pain sufferers often move on from pain management to narcotic addiction. This circumstance has created an urgency for CPRG to help patients detox in a private, effective environment.

CPRG utilizes NESPT long-term pain programs <<http://www.painreliefgroup.com/pain.htm>> , narcotic detoxification <<http://www.painreliefgroup.com/detox.htm>> and other comprehensive programs. <<http://www.painreliefgroup.com/weight.htm>> NESP is an acronym that stands for Nutritional, Emotional, Social/Financial, Physical/Psychological; the six aspects of chronic pain and narcotic addiction. These programs along with an integrative approach completely distinguishes CPRG from any other medical group or physician who claims to be "pain management." The corporation was formed by Gregory A. Smith, MD, QME in 2001.

For more information about Comprehensive Pain Relief Group (CPRG) please refer to [www.painreliefgroup.com](http://www.painreliefgroup.com) <<http://www.painreliefgroup.com/>> .

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Photos available for this release:

Gregory Smith, MD holds Fentanyl lollipops.

To view photos, go to [www.ewsrelease.com/pressroom](http://www.ewsrelease.com/pressroom) and enter Release ID: 147787