

- Have shortness of breath (little chest movement with breathing)
- Feel faint, dizzy, confused, or have other unusual symptoms

These can be symptoms that you have taken too much (overdose) DURAGESIC[®] or the dose is too high for you. These symptoms may lead to serious problems or death if not treated right away.

Some medicines may cause serious or life-threatening side effects when used with DURAGESIC[®]. Talk to your health care provider about all the medicines you are taking.

You can develop physical dependence on DURAGESIC[®]. Stopping DURAGESIC[®] suddenly can make you sick with withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your healthcare provider about slowly stopping DURAGESIC[®].

There is a chance you could get addicted to DURAGESIC[®]. The chance is higher if you are or have been addicted to or abused other medicines, street drugs, or alcohol, or if you have a history of mental problems.

DURAGESIC[®] can cause your blood pressure to drop. This can make you feel dizzy if you get up too fast from sitting or lying down.

The common side effects with DURAGESIC[®] are nausea, vomiting, constipation, dry mouth, sleepiness, confusion, weakness, and sweating. Although uncommon, trouble sleeping and seizures were reported in children. These are not all the possible side effects of DURAGESIC[®]. For a complete list, ask your health care provider or pharmacist.

Constipation (less frequent than usual or hard bowel movements) is a very common side effect of opioids including DURAGESIC[®] and is unlikely to go away without treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider about the use of laxatives (medicines to treat constipation) and stool softeners to prevent or treat constipation while taking DURAGESIC[®].

- Talk to your health care provider about any side effect that concerns you.

How and where to apply DURAGESIC[®]

In the hospital, your health care provider or other medical person will apply DURAGESIC[®] for you. At home, you or a member of your family may apply DURAGESIC[®] to your skin. You need to check the patches often to make sure that they are sticking well to the skin. In young children and people who have impaired thinking, put the patch on the upper back. This will lower the chances that the patch will be removed

1. **Prepare:** For adults, put the patch on the chest, back, flank (sides of the waist), or upper arm in a place where there is no hair. Put it on right away after you have removed it from the pouch and after you have removed the protective liner. Avoid sensitive areas or those that move around a lot. If there is hair, **do not shave (shaving irritates the skin)**. Instead, clip hair as close to the skin as possible. Clean the skin area with clear water **only**. **Pat skin completely dry**. Do not use anything on the skin (soaps, lotions, oils, alcohol, etc.) before the patch is applied.

Graphic of man clipping chest hair with scissors

2. **Peel:** Peel the liner from the back of the patch and throw away. **Touch the sticky side as little as possible.**

Graphic of two hands peeling protective liner from patch with minimal contact.

3. **Press:** Press the patch onto the skin **with the palm of your hand and hold there for a minimum of 30 seconds**. Make sure it sticks well, especially at the edges.

Graphic of man pressing patch with palm of hand

- Each DURAGESIC[®] patch is sealed in its own protective pouch. Do not remove the DURAGESIC[®] patch from the pouch until you are ready to use it. When you are ready to put on DURAGESIC[®], tear open the pouch along the dotted line, starting at the slit, and remove the DURAGESIC[®] patch.
- Do not put the DURAGESIC[®] patch on skin that is very oily, burned, broken out, cut, irritated, or damaged in any way.
- If you have any questions about where on your body you should or should not apply the patch, please ask your health care provider.

- DURAGESIC[®] may not stick to all patients. If the patch does not stick well or comes loose after applying, tape the edges down with first aid tape. If the patch falls off, throw it away and put a new one on at a different skin site (see "Disposing of DURAGESIC[®]").
- Wash your hands when you have finished applying DURAGESIC[®].
- Remove DURAGESIC[®] after wearing it for 3 days (see "Disposing of DURAGESIC[®]"). Choose a *different* place on the skin to apply a new DURAGESIC[®] patch and repeat Steps 1 through 3. **Do not apply the new patch to the same place as the last one.**

When to apply DURAGESIC[®]

- You can apply DURAGESIC[®] at any time of the day. Change it at about the same time of day 3 days later or as directed by your health care provider.
- Do not apply the new DURAGESIC[®] patch to the same place where you removed the last DURAGESIC[®] patch.
- Your health care provider may increase your DURAGESIC[®] dose if your pain is not controlled well. **If you continue to have pain, call your health care provider.**

Water and DURAGESIC[®]

You can bathe, swim or shower while you are wearing DURAGESIC[®]. If the patch falls off, put a new DURAGESIC[®] patch on your skin. Make sure the new skin area you have chosen is dry before putting on a new DURAGESIC[®] patch.

Disposing of DURAGESIC[®]

- Before putting on a new DURAGESIC[®] patch, remove the patch you have been wearing.
- Fold the used DURAGESIC[®] patch in half so that the sticky side sticks to itself. **Flush the used DURAGESIC[®] down the toilet right away. A used DURAGESIC[®] patch may be dangerous for or even lead to death in babies, children, pets, and adults who have not been prescribed DURAGESIC[®].**
- Throw away any DURAGESIC[®] patches that are left over from your prescription as soon as they are no longer needed. Remove the leftover patches from their protective pouch and remove the protective liner. **Fold the patches in half with the sticky sides together, and flush the patches down the toilet.** Do not flush the pouch or the protective liner down the toilet. These items can be thrown away in a garbage can.