



Military Advanced Regional Anesthesia & Analgesia  
Email White Paper Decision 5 July 2005

Topic: **Actiq™ (oral transmucosal fentanyl citrate)**

\*MARAA decisions and recommendations to service Anesthesiology Consultants to the Surgeons General can be found under the heading: **Service anesthesiology consultant recommendation.**

## I.

Email Meeting Date: 5 July 2005

Voting Members:

1. COL John Chiles – Army<sup>1</sup> [john.chiles@na.amedd.army.mil](mailto:john.chiles@na.amedd.army.mil)
2. LTC Chester Buckenmaier – Army<sup>2</sup> [chester.buckenmaier@na.amedd.army.mil](mailto:chester.buckenmaier@na.amedd.army.mil)
3. LTC Todd Carter – USAF<sup>2</sup> [todd.carter@andrews.af.mil](mailto:todd.carter@andrews.af.mil)
4. MAJ Peter Baek – USAF<sup>2</sup> [peter.baek@andrews.af.mil](mailto:peter.baek@andrews.af.mil)
4. CDR Terry Stambaugh – Navy<sup>2</sup> [tastambaugh@bethesda.med.navy.mil](mailto:tastambaugh@bethesda.med.navy.mil)
5. CDR Dean Giacobbe – Navy<sup>2</sup> [dtgiacobbe@mar.med.navy.mil](mailto:dtgiacobbe@mar.med.navy.mil)

<sup>1</sup>Service Consultant

<sup>2</sup>Service Consultant's Designee

## II. ISSUE

a. The Defense Medical Standardization Board (DMSB) recently met at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to discuss tri-service anesthesia issues. LTC Joy Walker of the

Board requested a decision from MARAA on the use of Actiq™ (oral transmucosal fentanyl citrate) in battlefield pain control.

Actiq™, sometimes referred to as a fentanyl lollipop, depends on the high lipophilicity of fentanyl to allow absorption through the oral mucosa when delivered from an oral applicator. The warning label that accompanies the product states:

*Because life-threatening hypoventilation could occur at any dose in patients not taking chronic opiates, Actiq is contraindicated in the management of acute or postoperative pain. This product **must not** be used opioid non-tolerant patients.*

The consensus among MARAA members and interested parties was uniformly negative about using this product in an austere battlefield environment. Concerns ranged from increased abuse potential, slow onset of clinical effect, risk to non-opioid tolerant patients, and better alternatives, among other criticisms.

**Service anesthesiology consultant recommendation:** MARAA does not support the use of Actiq™ or other oral fentanyl delivery systems on the battlefield at this time. Anesthesiology consultants are advised against supporting this product for fielding. MARAA remains open to other novel pain control technologies or drug delivery systems as they become available.