

Buprenorphine may be helpful in peripheral neuropathic pain

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(HealthDay)—For patients with moderate to severe diabetic peripheral

neuropathic pain (DPNP), transdermal buprenorphine is effective for reducing pain, but is associated with adverse events, according to a study published online June 16 in *Diabetes Care*.

Richard W. Simpson, D.M., from Box Hill Hospital, and John H. Wlodarczyk, Ph.D., from Consulting Services in New Lambton—both in Australia, conducted a [randomized trial](#) involving 186 [patients](#) with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and stable glycemic control. Participants had been experiencing moderate to severe DPNP for at least six months and were randomized to buprenorphine or placebo patches (93 patients in each group).

A total of 37 patients from the buprenorphine group and 24 from the placebo group completed the study. The researchers found that, in the buprenorphine group, the main reason for premature withdrawal was [adverse events](#), most often due to untreated nausea and/or vomiting. In the per-protocol population, 86.3 percent of the buprenorphine group and 56.6 percent of the [placebo group](#) experienced a 30 percent reduction in average versus baseline [pain](#) at week 12 (P

"Transdermal buprenorphine, when tolerated, is an effective therapy for DPNP and provides another option to manage this challenging painful condition," the authors write. "Nausea and constipation need to be managed proactively to optimize treatment outcomes."

The trial was supported by Mundipharma, the manufacturer of the buprenorphine patch.

More information: [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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