

ADVANTAGES

METHADONE

- Withdrawal from other opiates not necessary to start methadone
- Calming effect
- Less expensive if you aren't covered by welfare or the provincial health plan
- Available in multiple pharmacies

BUPRENORPHINE (SUBOXONE)

- Rapid dosage, comfort dose attained faster
- No sleepiness
- Certain side effects less likely
- Fewer interactions with other medications
- Lasts longer, so a doubled dose means you can go to the pharmacy every other day
- Withdrawal may be easier for some
- Reduced overdose risk



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DISADVANTAGES

METHADONE

- Greater overdose risk
- Interaction with other central nervous system depressants (benzos, alcohol, other opiates)
- Undesirable side effects for some : constipation, sweating, weight gain, difficulty reaching orgasm or erection
- Withdrawal may be more difficult for some

BUPRENORPHINE (SUBOXONE)

- Can cause rapid withdrawal if used incorrectly
- Interaction with other central nervous system depressants (benzos, alcohol, other opiates)
- No calming effect
- More expensive if you are not covered by welfare or the provincial health plan



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