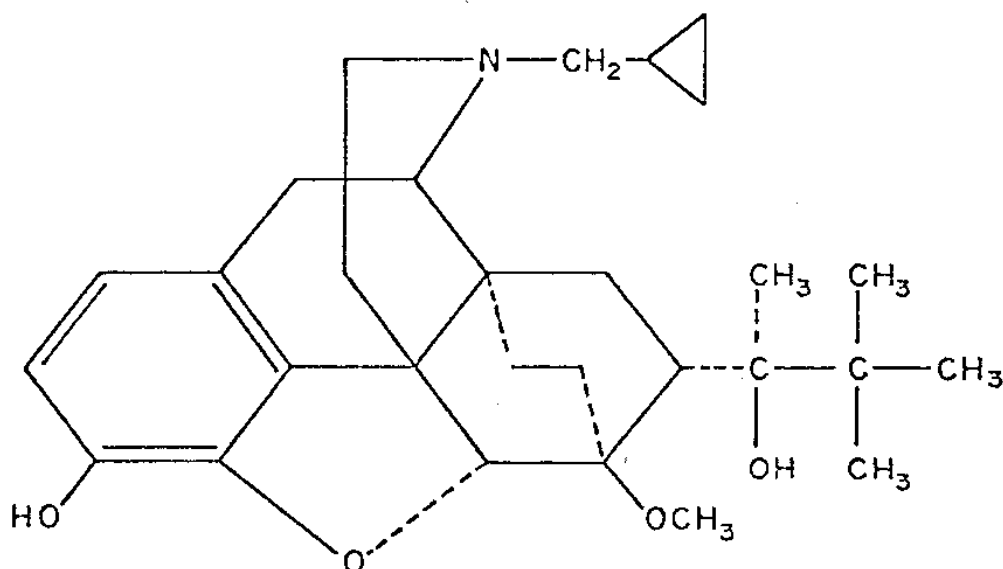


Assessment of Buprenorphine for Morphine-Like Effects in Man and Evaluation as a Maintenance Drug in the Treatment of Narcotic Addiction

Buprenorphine is an oripavine derivative (Fig. 10) which is an effective analgesic in man and animals. In monkeys, buprenorphine did not exacerbate or suppress morphine abstinence and did not produce physical dependence in direct addiction tests. In the chronic spinal dog,¹⁶ buprenorphine 1) produced a profile of morphine-like effects in the non-dependent animals, 2) precipitated and suppressed abstinence in dependent animals, and 3) produced physical dependence with chronic administration. It was concluded from these studies that buprenorphine was a partial agonist of morphine.



BUPRENORPHINE

Figure 10. Structure of buprenorphine (N-cyclopropylmethyl-7 α -(1-(S)-hydroxyl-1,2,2-trimethyl-propyl)-6,14-indoethano-6,7,8, 14-tetra-hydronororipavine).