Where's The Error?



Careless Carol is applying a Duragesic transdermal system to a patient. The doctor's order reads "Duragesic 50 mcg/h transdermal system". The label for the product selected by Carol is shown below. Remembering that patches need to be applied to hairless areas, Carol shaves an area on the patient's upper arm before applying the patch. Other than a little razor burn, she does a good job of shaving the area, and is quite proud of the fact that no blood loss occurs. She applies the patch and records the time on the patient's chart.

When Carol stops in to record vital signs later in the day, she notices that the patient's respiration is dangerously slower than normal. She looks up the side effects of Duragesic, and notes that one of the effects is to decrease respiratory rate. She correctly determines that the Duragesic is causing this reaction. She reads the package insert, and finds that the dose ordered is correct for the patient. She asks you to help her figure out why the respiratory rate has dropped so low. Where's the error?

