
OPIOIDS: THE ENEMY OR THE ALLY?

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Introduction:

Chronic pain is a prevalent condition worldwide. Opioids have beneficial effects when treating pain, but also involve risks. Opioid iatrogenic dependence(OID) is becoming more prevalent in western countries. Co-occurring psychiatric disorders are both among its predisposing factors and its complications.

Objectives:

To review factors predicting response to opioid treatment, especially those related with psychiatric comorbidities. We describe a case of OID as an example of the patient-type.

Aims:

Attention needs to be paid to OID considering its growing health impact.

Materials/Methods:

Throughout the case of a patient with chronic pain due to post-radiotherapeutic proctalgia, who suffered from depression and showed maladaptive personality traits, we describe a case of OID.

Results:

All patients assisted at our Pain Clinic have current or previous psychiatric disorders, and in almost half of the cases is major depression, as it happens in our case-example. Concomitant psychopharmacological treatment of opioid dependence and psychiatric comorbidities (including other drugs abuse/dependence) improves outcomes.

Conclusions:

A global view of the opioid-consumer that includes comorbid psychiatric conditions is needed.

References:

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