Acute Pain Management in Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

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Disclosures
Kathleen Broglio has no financial disclosures to report

Note: If AAAP is the continuing education provider for this training, please complete our COI form here: http://www.cvent.com/d/ntqcez.

The content of this activity may include discussion of off-label or investigative drug uses. The faculty is aware that is their responsibility to disclose this information.

Target Audience
- The overarching goal of PCSS is to train healthcare professionals in evidence-based practices for the prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders, particularly in prescribing medications, as well for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.
Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity participants should be able to:

• Discuss acute pain management strategies for those with active substance use
• Describe medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
• Develop treatment strategies to treat acute pain for individuals with substance/opioid use disorder (SUD/OUD)
• Describe safe discharge strategies for individuals with acute pain and co-morbid SUD/OUD

It’s a Balancing Act

General Considerations

Advocate for safe, appropriate pain management
Utilize a harm reduction approach
Maximize use of multimodal analgesia
Consider treatment for mental health issues
Collaboration with prescriber if receiving medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
Language Matters and can be a Source of Stigma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stigmatizing Language</th>
<th>Preferred Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addict, junkie, user</td>
<td>Person with substance use disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Abuser</td>
<td>Person who uses drugs (PWUD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shank, Alcoholic</td>
<td>Person with alcohol use disorder/misuses alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV drug abuser</td>
<td>Person who injects drugs (PWID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Assisted Treatment</td>
<td>Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapsed</td>
<td>Returned to use, Used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovering Addict</td>
<td>Person in Long Term Recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirty urine, failing drug test</td>
<td>Testing positive on a drug screen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse. Words Matter, 2021

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Adopt a Harm Reduction Strategy

- Accepts drug use as a reality
- Does not reduce harms
- Understands SUD continuum
- Collaborates versus coerces
- Empowers and gives voice
- Recognizes inequalities and biases
- Harm Reduction Principles

Adapted and Used with Permission Drs Katrina Nickels, Monika Holbein, Janet Ho. Source documents: National Harm Reduction Coalition: https://harmreduction.org

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Avoid Strategies that could cause Harm

- Focusing on frontline
- Provide or meeting
- Coronavirus
- Ignore inequities, vulnerabilities
- Ignore HRO

Adapted and Used with Permission Dr Katrina Nickels, Monika Holbein, Janet Ho. Source document: National Harm Reduction Coalition: https://harmreduction.org
Always make sure the Patient leaves the Hospital with Naloxone

- Prescribe naloxone rescue kits for **ALL** patients who are:
  - Diagnosed with a SUD/OUD
  - Active use
  - On MOUD
  - In remission not on MOUD
  - On high dose opioids
  - > 50 mg morphine equivalent daily
  - At risk for overdose
  - Frail, organ dysfunction, etc.
  - Safety risks in the home


It’s a Balancing Act

- SAFETY
  - Be Aware of Stigma
- EFFICACY
  - Be Aware of Bias
- RISK MITIGATION
- HARM REDUCTION

Case #1

- 58 y.o. woman admitted to the ICU with respiratory distress, diagnosed with small cell lung cancer with extensive osseous metastases
- PMH: Intravenous drug use (IVDU) – regular heroin, occasional methamphetamine; lumbar abscess s/p laminectomy; chronic low back pain
- SOC: Lives in boarding house; TOB use, IVDU heroin; twin daughters with active IVDU, one hospitalized at same time with endocarditis
Case #1 (continued)

Hospital Course
- Started methadone for treatment of substance use disorder and pain
- Due to perceived intolerance to methadone, hospitalist rotated to Oxycodone ER and IR
- Discharged with #60 Oxycodone ER 30 mg and #60 oxycodone/APAP 5/325 mg
- Follow-up scheduled for palliative medicine clinic to manage pain
- Pt calls 2 days after discharge for refill, out of meds

How could we have better managed pain in the inpatient setting?

Managing Acute Pain in Individuals with Active Substance Use

- Medical history
- Substance use assessment
- Withdrawal assessment
- Social support

- Non-opioid multimodal analgesia
- Consider initiation of MOUD
- Intravenous Patient Controlled Analgesia (IV-PCA) or scheduled opioids
- Higher doses opioids due to tolerance
- Treat withdrawal symptoms

Screen for Opioid Withdrawal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom/Evaluation</th>
<th>Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resting pulse rate</td>
<td>0 (0), 1 (1-30), 2 (30-100), 3 (100-200), 4 (200+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweating</td>
<td>0 (none) → 4 (perspiration off face)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tachypnea</td>
<td>0 (none) → 3 (rapid breathing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil size</td>
<td>0 (pinpoint or normal) → 3 (pin to mm size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone or joint aches</td>
<td>0 (none) → 3 (squeezing joints/muscles, can’t get comfortable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>0 (none) → 4 (constant nausea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>0 (none) → 3 (multiple episodes of diarrhea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tremor</td>
<td>0 (absent) → 4 (tremor/muscle twitching)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety or irritability</td>
<td>0 (none) → 4 (difficulty participating in assessment due to anxiety)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>0 (none) → 3 (prominent laxation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>0-12 = mild, 13-20 = moderate, 21-30 = severe withdrawal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Treat Opioid Withdrawal and Manage Pain

**Opioid Withdrawal Symptoms (not all inclusive)**
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramping
- Increased joint pain
- Anxiety, restlessness, irritability, insomnia
- Hypertension, tachycardia
- Protracted withdrawal from illicit fentanyl

**Withdrawal Treatment**
- Opioids (methadone, buprenorphine)
- Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists (clonidine, lofexidine)
- Symptomatic treatment cramps, nausea, insomnia, etc.


Remember to Screen for Withdrawal from Cannabis

**Cannabis Withdrawal symptoms**
- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Anger
- disturbed sleep-dreams
- mood changes
- appetite loss

**Withdrawal Treatment (no strong evidence)**
- Supportive counseling
- Psychoeducation
- Cannabis agonists (limited evidence)
- Supportive treatments symptoms


What about Stimulant Withdrawal?

**Assess for effects of intoxication (differs dependent on stimulant)**
- Hypertension, tachycardia, hyperthermia, psychomotor agitation, seizures
- Confusion, paranoia, anxiety

**Treatment strategies for stimulant use disorder**
- Acutely treat life-threatening conditions, provide quiet environment
- No specific antidotes
- Long term:
  - Motivational interviewing,
  - Cognitive behavioral therapy
  - Contingency management
  - Stimulant replacement therapy?

[SAHSA TIP 53](https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP21-02-01-004.pdf)
Implement Multimodal Pain Management

Advocate for a Safe Discharge Plan

• Who is the prescriber after discharge if opioids necessary?
• Avoid a gap in care if plans to continue MOUD
• If started MOUD inpatient, discontinue prior to discharge if no plan to continue after hospitalization
• Prescribe naloxone for overdose prevention due to higher risk for overdose due to loss of tolerance\(^1\)\(^2\)\(^3\)

2. Crotty, K et al., J Addict Med. 2020;14(2):99-112

Case #2

• 55 y.o. man with history of alcohol use disorder, opioid use disorder from prescription opioid use with chronic abdominal pain
• PMH
  • Pancreatectomy secondary to alcohol use disorder
  • Three myocardial infarctions
  • Depression with suicide attempts
  • Severe peripheral artery disease
• Current treatment
  Buprenorphine/naloxone 16mg/4mg in divided doses
• Planned surgery for the peripheral artery disease
• Fearful of restarting opioids in the acute care setting

How should we manage perioperative pain?
## Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Where obtained</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methadone</td>
<td>Full mu agonist</td>
<td>60-120 mg (usual doses may be higher or lower)</td>
<td>PO once daily</td>
<td>Must be administered through a federal Opioid Treatment Program. Patient goes daily for observed dosing. May graduate to take doses home on weekends or have weekly pick-ups. More than once daily dosing necessary for pain management. Analgesia 6-12 hours. Many drug/drug interactions. Can cause QTc prolongation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buprenorphine/naloxone</td>
<td>Partial mu agonist</td>
<td>8-32 mg sublingual or transmucosal daily</td>
<td>100-300 mg SC monthly</td>
<td>Prescribed by physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in ambulatory office setting who have waiver. May provide analgesia if given in split doses (every 6 or 12 hours). If pure mu opioids administered, need higher doses. Fewer drug interactions than methadone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naltrexone</td>
<td>Full mu antagonist</td>
<td>50 mg orally daily</td>
<td>380 mg monthly intramuscular depot</td>
<td>Injection administered by any clinician who is prescriber. Also used for alcohol use disorder. Blocks the effects of opioids – not a good choice for those with pain requiring opioid therapy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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### Buprenorphine works differently than other Opioids

![Graph showing % mu receptor density vs dose with different receptor categories](image)

- Full agonist (e.g. heroin, methadone)
- Partial agonist (e.g. buprenorphine)
- Antagonist (e.g. naloxone)

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### Managing Acute Pain for Individuals on MOUD

#### Preoperative/Admission

- Medical History
- Social support
- Medication/narcotic use
- Prescriber
- MOUD-verify medications
- Discontinue naltrexone (if applicable)

#### Perioperative /Acute phase

- Continue methadone* or buprenorphine
  - Discontinuation not recommended by most experts
- Multimodal non-opioid analgesia
  - As needed opioids (may need much higher doses)
  - Multimodal non-opioid analgesia
  - As needed opioids (may need much higher doses if on injectable naltrexone)


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*Discontinuation not recommended by most experts.
Acute Pain - Postoperative Management

Continue non-opioid multimodal analgesia
Continue methadone or buprenorphine – consider increased dosing if postoperative pain and use split dosing (every 6-12 hours)
Collaborate Outpatient Treatment Provider

Methadone
Buprenorphine

Naltrexone

Continue non-opioid multimodal analgesia
Collaborate Outpatient Treatment Provider
Education about risk for overdose - naloxone prescription
Resume naltrexone once pain resolved


Prevent Overdose after Hospitalization

If MOUD discontinued during acute care event MUST activate safety plan to decrease risk of accidental overdose

RECOMMEND:
• Restart buprenorphine or methadone PRIOR to discharge
• If not able to restart naltrexone - education/counseling about increased risk for overdose
• Naloxone for opioid overdose prevention should be in the patient’s hands at discharge

Strategies to manage Pain in those with SUD/OUD in Remission or Recovery who are not on MOUD

Multimodal approach non-pharmacologic strategies

Education/counseling if opioids necessary (acute pain/serious illness)

Continue or engage in psychosocial programs

Naloxone for opioid reversal even if NOT on opioids due to risk of recurrence of substance use
It's a Balancing Act- Know Thyself
Know your Resources

RISK MITIGATION

SAFETY

Clinician fears

Patient fears

EFFICACY

HARM REDUCTION

Be Aware of Stigma

Be Aware of Bias

Take Home Points

• Adopt a harm reduction strategy to care
• Always consider a multimodal approach to pain management to include treatment for co-morbid mental health and substance use issues
• Ensure individual has naloxone for opioid reversal in hand when discharged from the hospital
• Collaboration with clinicians treating SUD/OUD essential part of ensuring appropriate pain management in the acute care setting

Selected References


Selected References


PCSS Mentoring Program

- PCSS Mentor Program is designed to offer general information to clinicians about evidence-based clinical practices in prescribing medications for opioid use disorder.
- PCSS Mentors are a national network of providers with expertise in addictions, pain, evidence-based treatment including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).
- 3-tiered approach allows every mentor/mentee relationship to be unique and catered to the specific needs of the mentee.
- No cost.

For more information visit: https://pcssNOW.org/mentoring/

PCSS Discussion Forum

Have a clinical question?

Ask a Colleague

A simple and direct way to receive an answer related to medications for opioid use disorder. Designed to provide a prompt response to simple practice-related questions.

http://pcss.invisionzone.com/register
PCSS is a collaborative effort led by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) in partnership with:

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