TITLE: Long-acting Opioids for Chronic Pain: Comparative Efficacy and Safety

DATE: 28 October 2011

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the comparative efficacy of different long-acting opioids for adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain?

2. What is the comparative safety of different long-acting opioids for adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain?

KEY MESSAGE

Evidence suggests that the comparative efficacy and safety of different long-acting opioids for adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain is generally similar.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 10), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and abbreviated list of major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies containing safety data. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2001 and October 24, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.
Fifteen randomized controlled trials and 11 non-randomized studies were identified regarding the comparative efficacy and safety of different long-acting opioids for adult patients with chronic non-cancer pain. No health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, or meta-analyses were identified. Additional studies of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified.

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
No literature identified.

**Randomized controlled trials**


PubMed: PM16870075

PubMed: PM17326594

PubMed: PM17319449

PubMed: PM16284584

PubMed: PM16215338

PubMed: PM12654955

PubMed: PM14499422

PubMed: PM11997197

PubMed: PM11348910
Non-randomized studies (safety)


PubMed: PM16553474

PubMed: PM12855350

PREPARED BY:
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
www.cadth.ca
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses – mixed populations with non-cancer and cancer pain


Non-randomized studies – mixed populations with non-cancer and cancer pain


Review articles


Additional references

