

OPIOIDS: LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

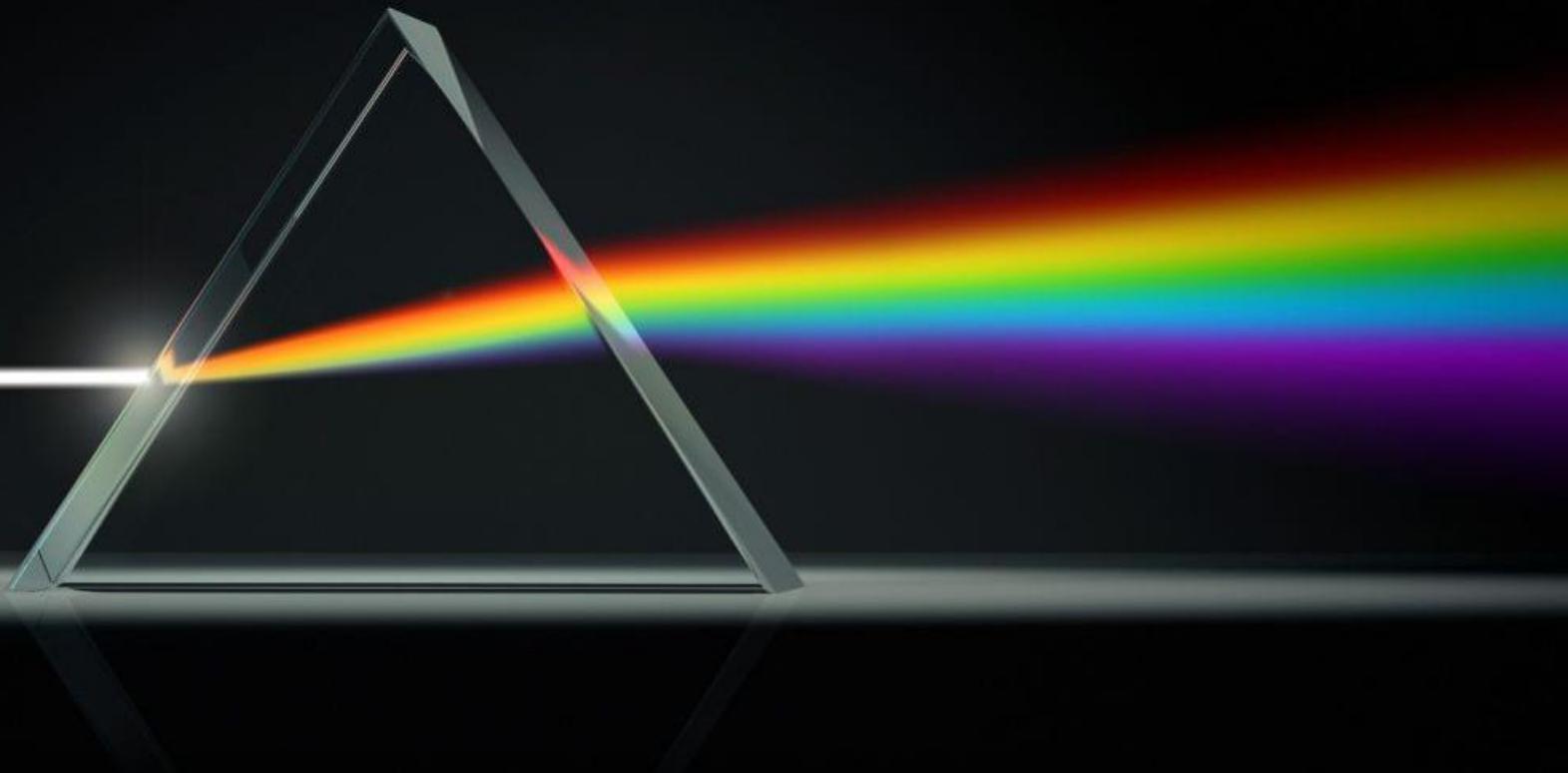


SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



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Associate Professor Anesthesia
*Dept. Medical and Surgical
Sciences and Biotechnologies*

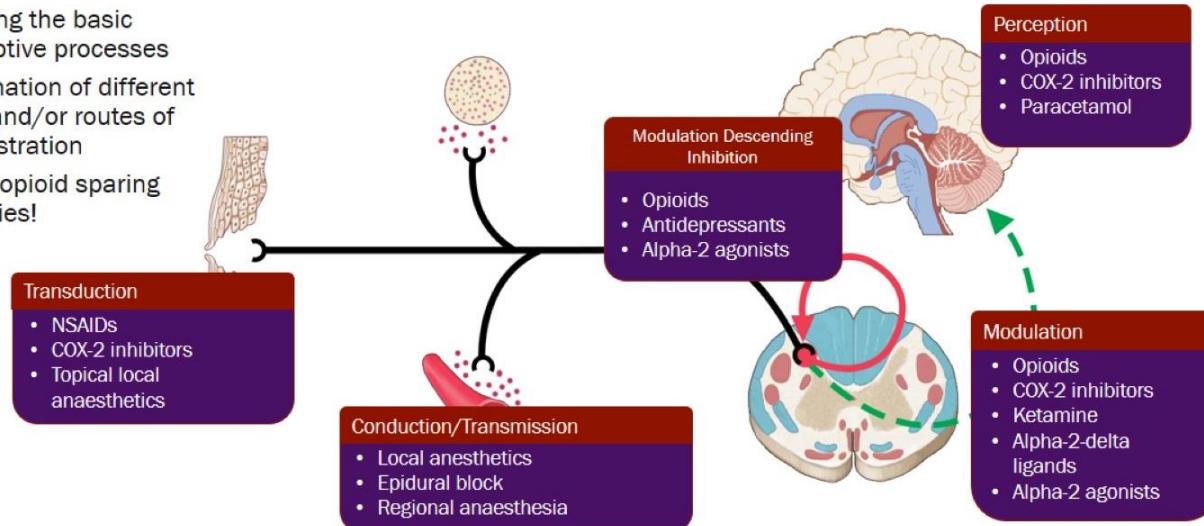
Sant'Andrea University Hospital



OPIOIDS: RATIONAL FOR USE

Pharmacotherapy of Pain: multimodal analgesia

- Targeting the basic nociceptive processes
- Combination of different drugs and/or routes of administration
- Mostly opioid sparing strategies!

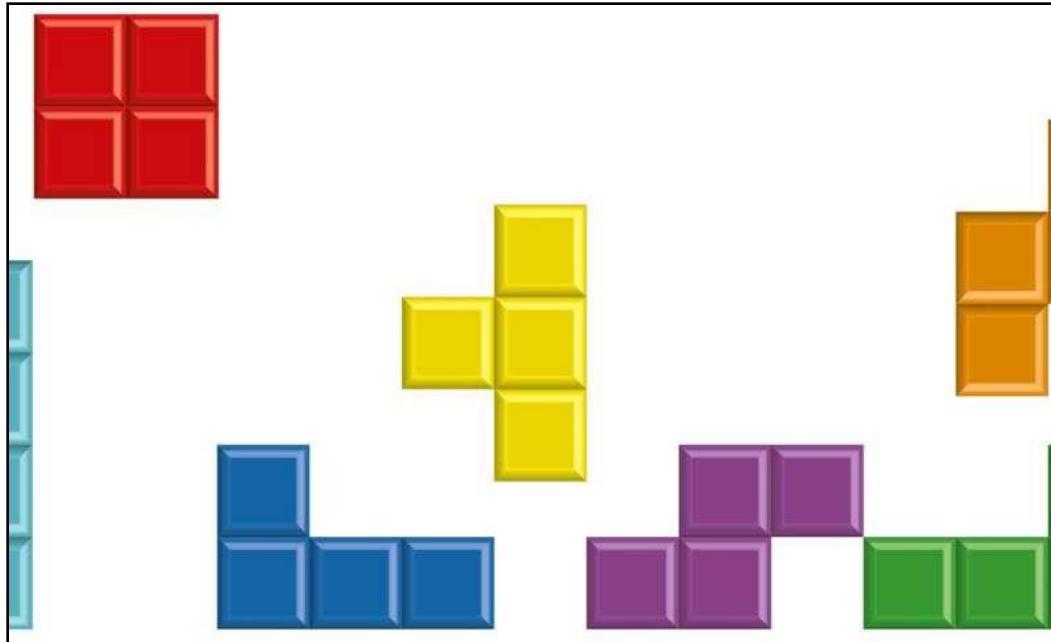


Kumar S, et al. OA Anaesthetics. 2014;2:2; Julius D, et al. Nature. 2001;413:203-210; Lee B, et al. Best Pract Res Clin Anaesthesiol. 2018;32:101-111; Dunkman WJ, et al. Surg Clin North Am. 2018;98:1171-1184.

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Any drug has its role



PHYSIOLOGY IN MEDICINE: A SERIES OF ARTICLES LINKING MEDICINE WITH SCIENCE

Physiology in Medicine

Dennis A. Ausiello, MD, *Editor*; Dale J. Benos, PhD, *Deputy Editor*; Francois Abboud, MD, *Associate Editor*,

William Koopman, MD, *Associate Editor*

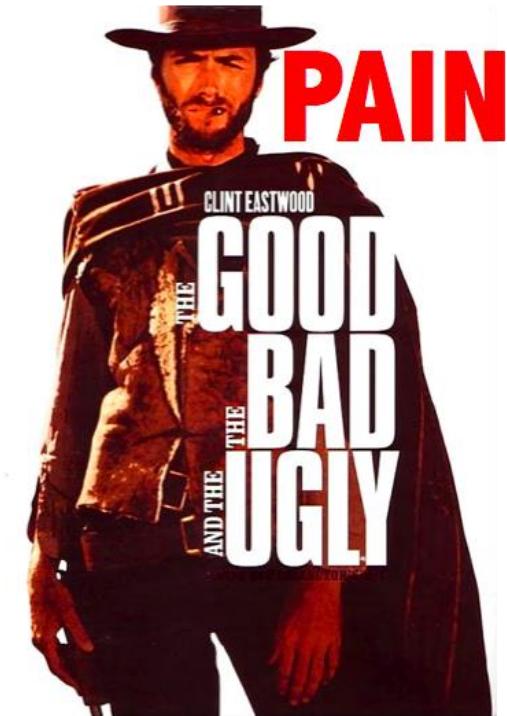
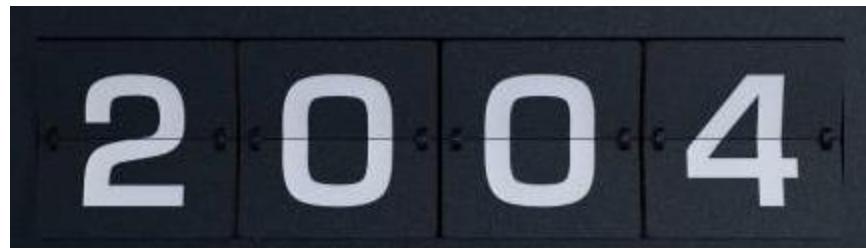
Annals of Internal Medicine

Paul Epstein, MD, *Series Editor*

REVIEW

Pain: Moving from Symptom Control toward Mechanism-Specific Pharmacologic Management

Clifford J. Woolf, MD



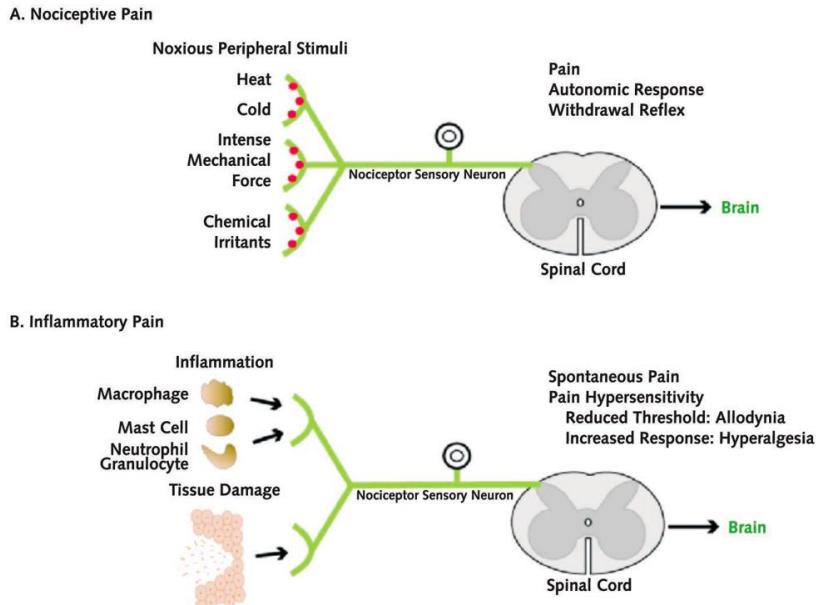
ADAPTIVE PAIN

The somato-sensorial peripheral and central system is intact

Adaptive Pain

Nociceptive

Inflammatory

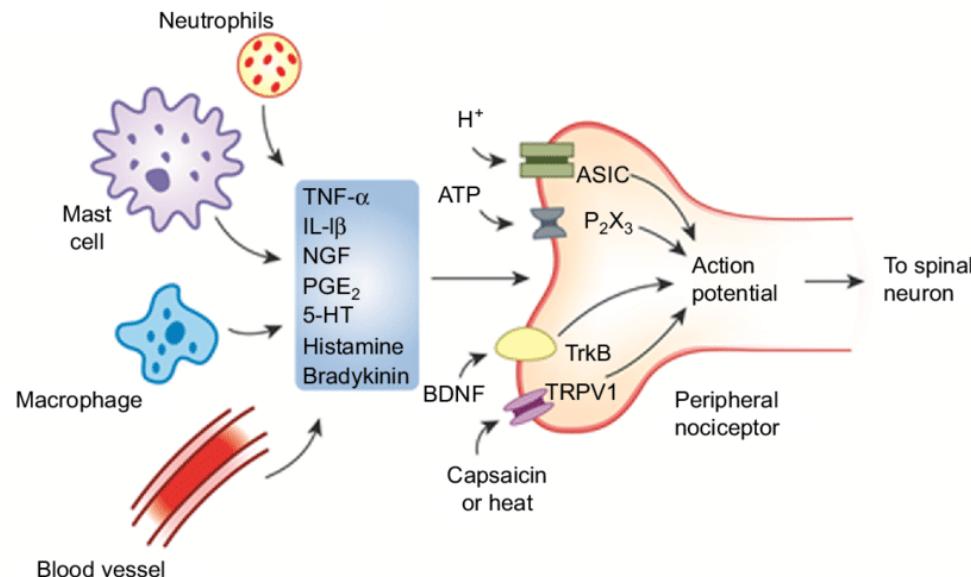


ADAPTIVE PAIN

PERIPHERAL SENSITIZATION

Sensitization of the nociceptive terminals in skin and muscle

A Peripheral sensitization



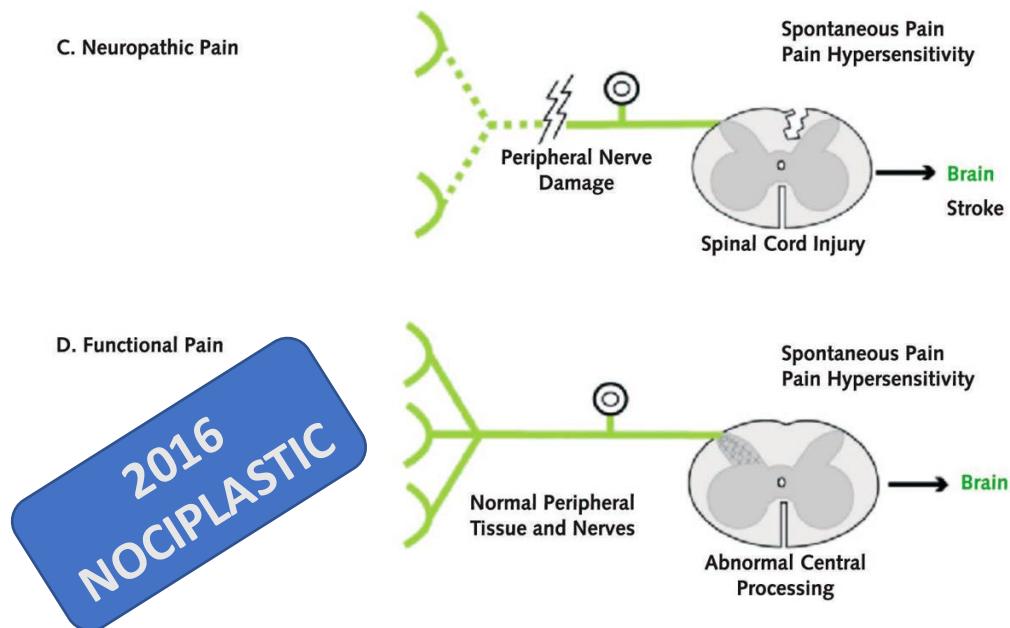
MALADAPTIVE PAIN

Absence of external potentially noxious inputs

Maladaptive Pain

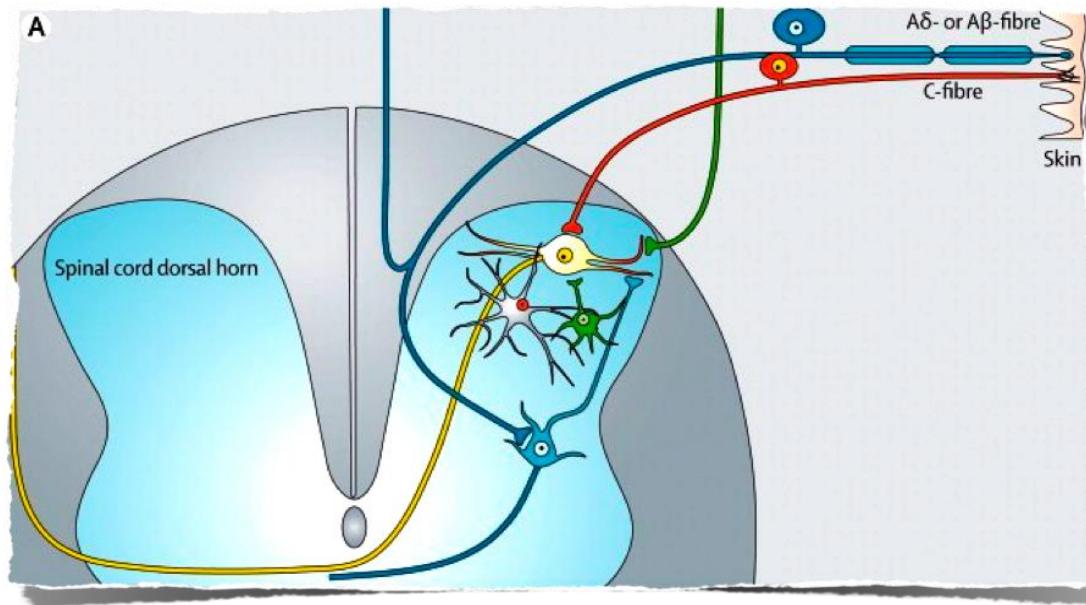
Neuropathic

Nociplastic

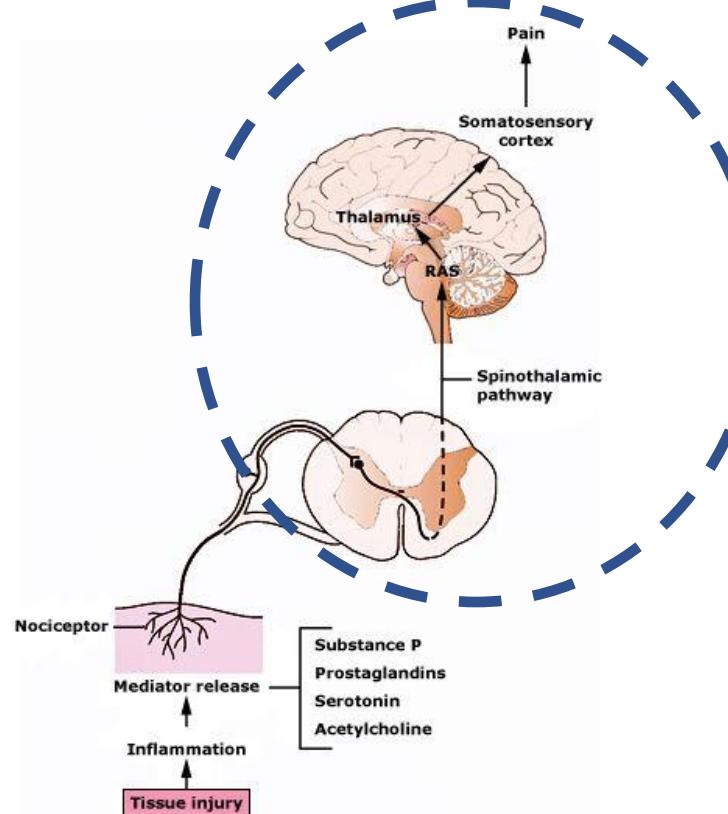


MALADAPTIVE PAIN

CENTRAL SENSITIZATION



CENTRAL ANALGESICS



REVIEW



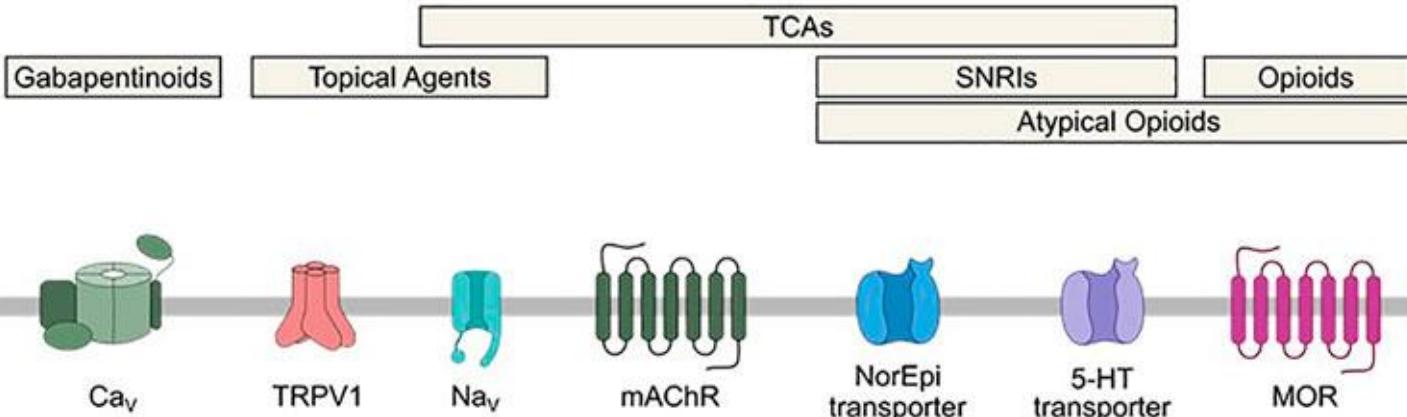
Pharmacologic agents directed at the treatment of pain associated with maladaptive neuronal plasticity

Joseph V. Pergolizzi Jr.^a, Giustino Varrassi  ^b, Peter Magnusson  ^{c,d}, Frank Breve^e, Robert B. Raffa  ^{f,g}, Paul J. Christo^h, Maninder Chopraⁱ, Antonella Paladini  ^j, Jo Ann LeQuang  ^a, Kailyn Mitchell^a and Flaminia Coluzzi^k

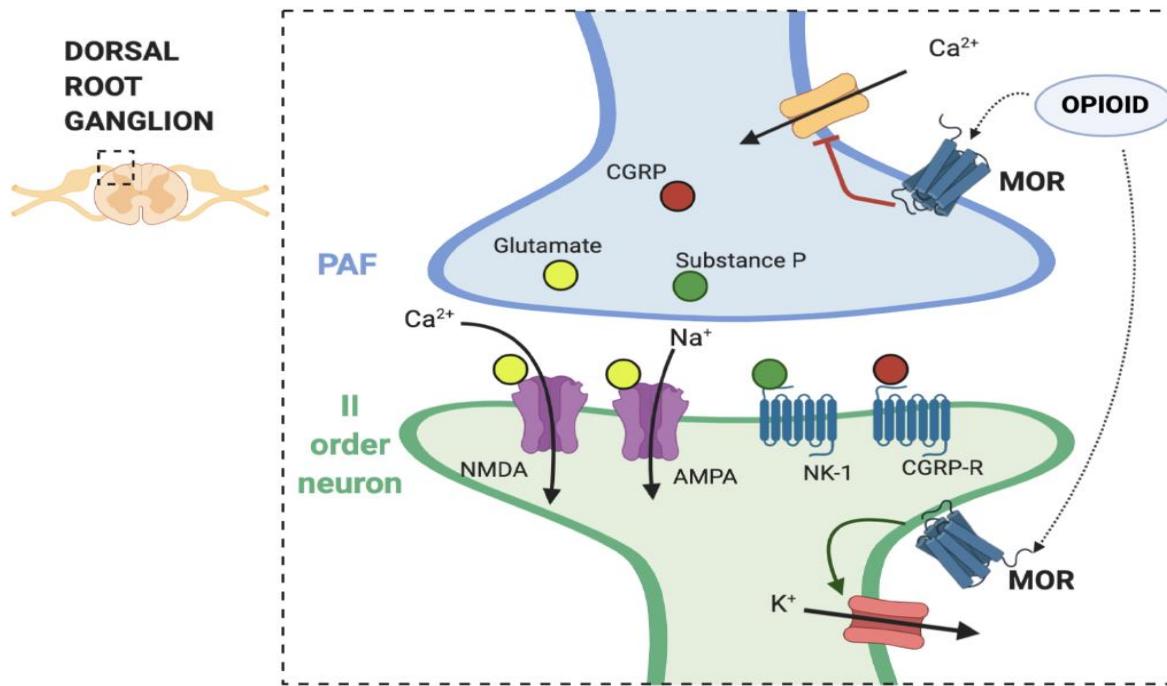
^aNEMA Research, Inc, Naples, USA; ^bPaolo Procacci Foundation, Rome, Italy; ^cCentre for Research and Development, Region Gävleborg/Uppsala University, Gävle, Sweden; ^dDepartment of Medicine, Cardiology Research Unit, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; ^eDepartment of Pharmacy Practice, Temple University School of Pharmacy, Philadelphia, USA; ^fCollege of Pharmacy (Adjunct), University of Arizona, Tucson, USA; ^gTemple University School of Pharmacy (Professor Emeritus), Philadelphia, USA; ^hAssociate Professor, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA; ⁱDecision Alternatives, LLC, Frederick, USA; ^jDepartment MESVA, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy; ^kDepartment Medical and Surgical Sciences and Biotechnologies, Sapienza University of Rome, Latina, Italy

A

Examples of current therapeutics



OPIOIDS: MOR-mediated modulation



Coluzzi F,
Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management 2020;16 1–17

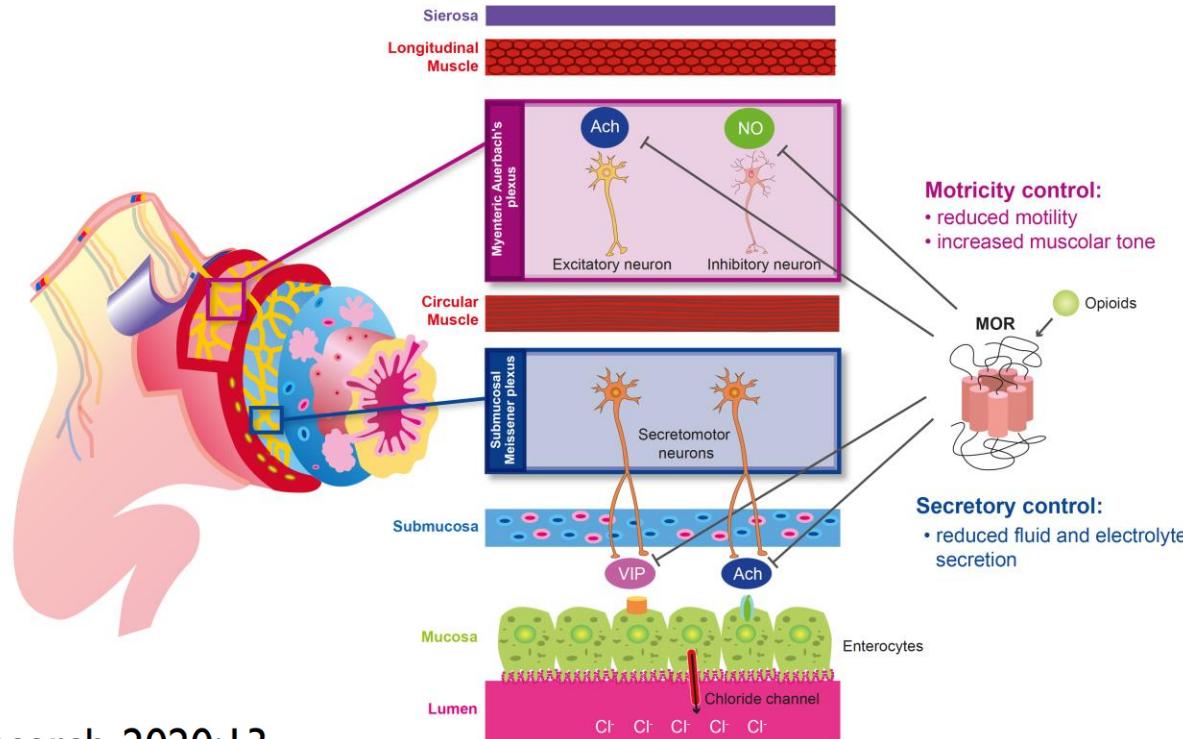
OPIOIDS: RATIONAL USE

TITRATION is the first step

- Reach to lowest effective dose
- Minimize side effects
- Tailored therapy



Opioid-Induced Constipation



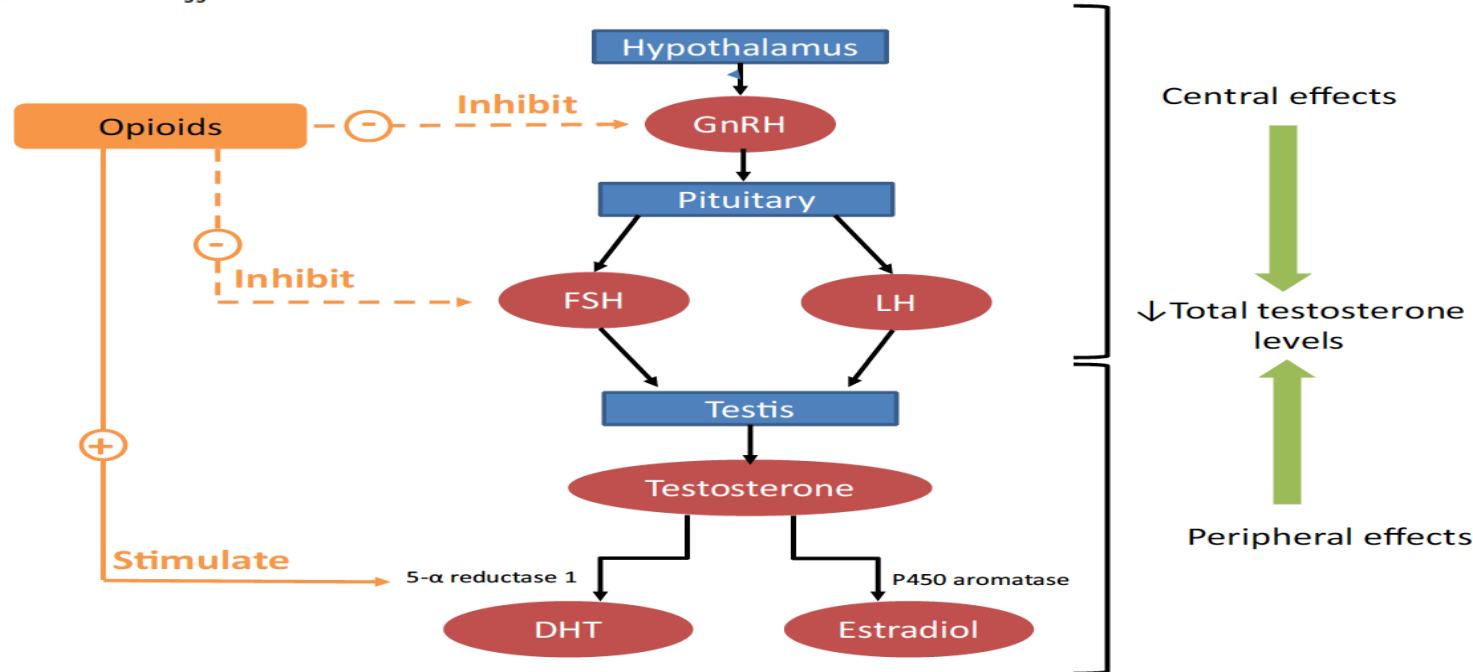
Coluzzi F et al.

Journal of Pain Research 2020:13



Testosterone deficiency in non-cancer opioid-treated patients

F. Coluzzi¹ · D. Billet² · M. Maggi³ · G. Corona⁴



Opioid Classification

	LAO	SAO	ROO
ANALGESIA	Long Acting	Short Acting	Rapid Onset
Onset	1-2 hrs	30-40 min	15 min
Duration	8-12 + hrs	4 hrs	1-2 hrs

How to choose...



Choosing the right LAO

Physician familiarity

Patients' preference

Tolerability profile

Efficacy

PK

Patients' characteristics



Assessing and Treating Chronic Pain in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease

Flaminia Coluzzi¹



Table 3 Pharmacological treatment for chronic pain management in ESRD

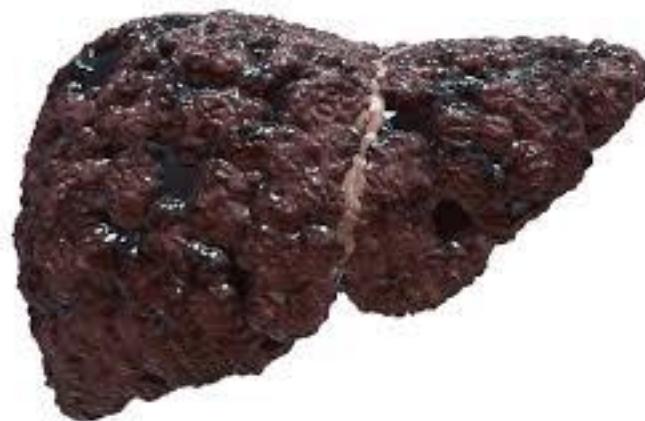
Drugs	Route of administration	Starting dosage	Indications	Clinical considerations
Opioids				
Buprenorphine patch	Transdermal	5 µg/h	Severe chronic pain	Safer profile
Fentanyl patch	Transdermal	12 µg/h	Severe chronic pain	Safer profile. No clinically significant accumulation in CKD
Hydromorphone	Oral	4 mg bid	Severe chronic pain (second-line treatment)	Safe, but use with caution. Dose adjustment required
Oxycodone	Oral	5 mg bid	Severe chronic pain (second-line treatment)	Safe, but use with caution. Dose adjustment required
Tramadol	Oral	50 mg bid	Severe chronic pain (second-line treatment)	Safe, but use with caution. Dose adjustment required
Tapentadol	Oral	25 mg bid	Severe chronic pain (second-line treatment)	No dose adjustment needed for CrCl \geq 30 mL/min. Data are not available in ESRD
Morphine				Not recommended due to accumulation. To be avoided
Codeine				Not recommended due to accumulation. To be avoided

Opioids in liver failure

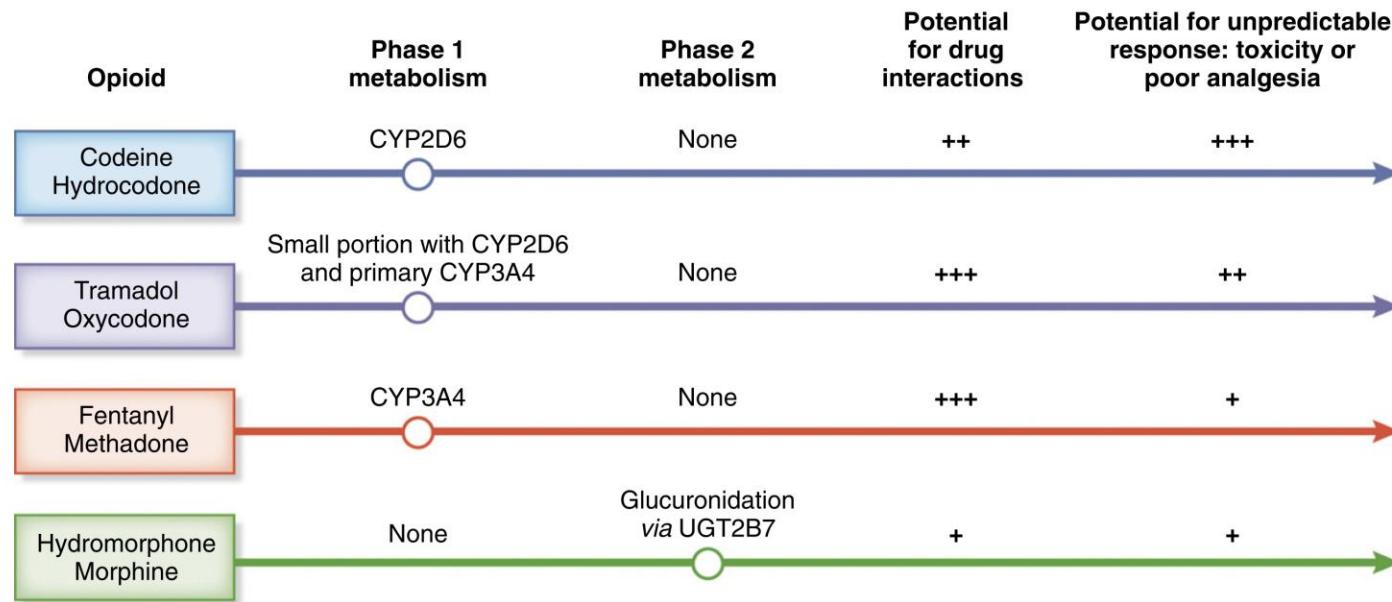
Table 3. Recommendations for Opioids in Hepatic Impairment

Opioid	Recommendations
Codeine	Not recommended; in severe hepatic dysfunction codeine is not converted to morphine, leading to poor analgesia
Fentanyl	99% metabolized in liver; studies have not demonstrated PK alterations; careful monitoring is warranted
Hydrocodone	Use with caution; monitor for overdose due to parent compound not being converted to metabolites
Hydromorphone	Undergoes phase II reaction; however, use with caution due to its intermediate extraction ratio
Methadone	Use with caution; risk of accumulation because of increased free drug
Meperidine	Not recommended; toxic metabolite, normeperidine, may accumulate
Morphine	Use with caution; monitor for overdose due to high extraction ratio
Oxycodone	Use with caution; dose adjustment recommended (1/2 to 1/3 of original dose)
Oxymorphone	Contraindicated in moderate-to-severe hepatic impairment
Tramadol	Not recommended; significant PK changes in moderate-to-severe hepatic impairment

PK: pharmacokinetics. Source: References 8, 16.

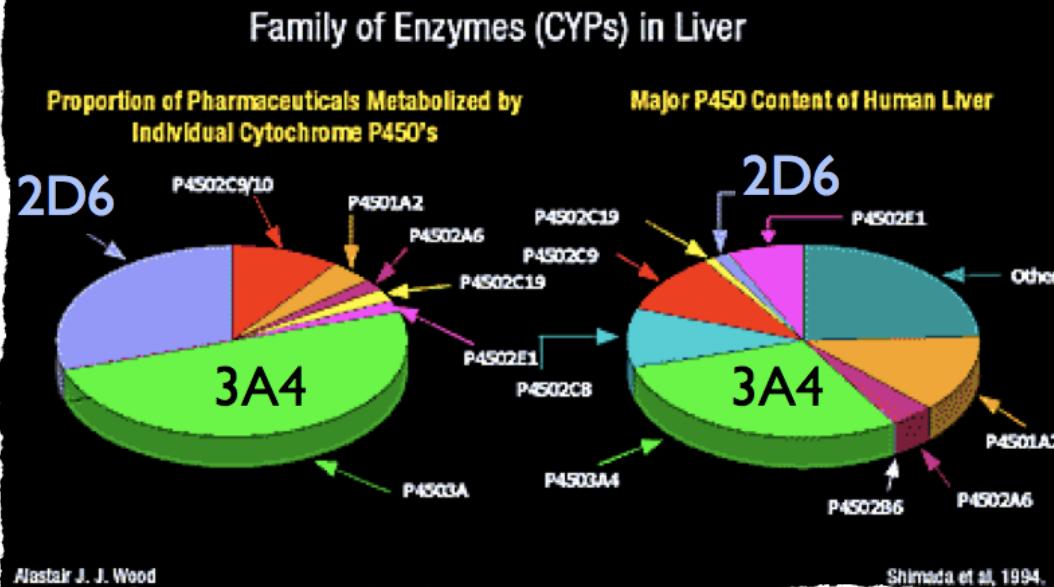


PK: Opioids' Metabolism



Drug-Drug Interactions: Role of CYP450

Drug Oxidation — Major Route of Drug Metabolism



PK: potential drug-drug interactions

CYP2D6

CYP3A4

Codeine

Tramadol

Hydrocodone

Oxycodone

Methadone

Codeine

Tramadol

Fentanyl

Methadone

Morphine

Hydromorphone

Oxymorphone

Tapentadol

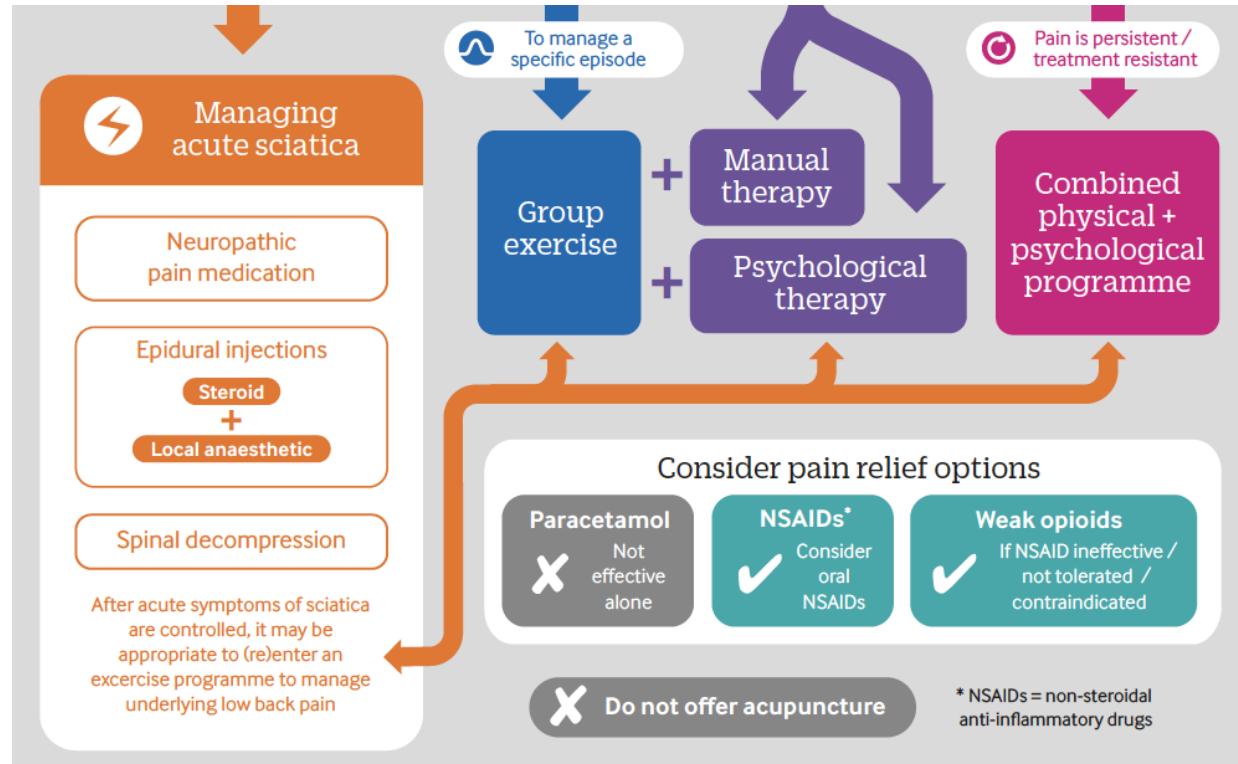


Ideal Analgesic Drug

- Potent analgesic effect
- Low abuse potential
- No tolerance
- Reduced risk of respiratory depression and other AEs
- Safe for long term use



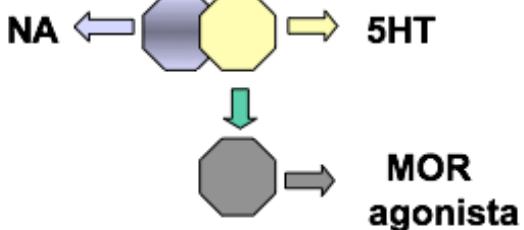
NICE guidelines LBP





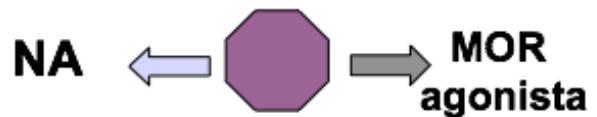


TRAMADOL



Racemic mixture
Prodrug
MOR/SNRI
Metabolic activation (CYP2D6)

TAPENTADOL



Single molecule
No metabolic activation
No active metabolites
Synergic MOR/NRI activity

Tapentadol: more than “MOR” ...

STRONG ANALGESIC



STRONG OPIOID

EXPECTED ADVANTAGES:

Similar Analgesia

Lower incidence of side effects

Adv Ther
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12325-018-0778-x>

COMMENTARY



Does ‘Strong Analgesic’ Equal ‘Strong Opioid’?
Tapentadol and the Concept of ‘ μ -Load’

Robert B. Raffa · Christian Elling · Thomas M. Tschentke

Reduced μ load

Tapentadol: the concept of Mu-Load

Adv Ther
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12325-018-0778-x>



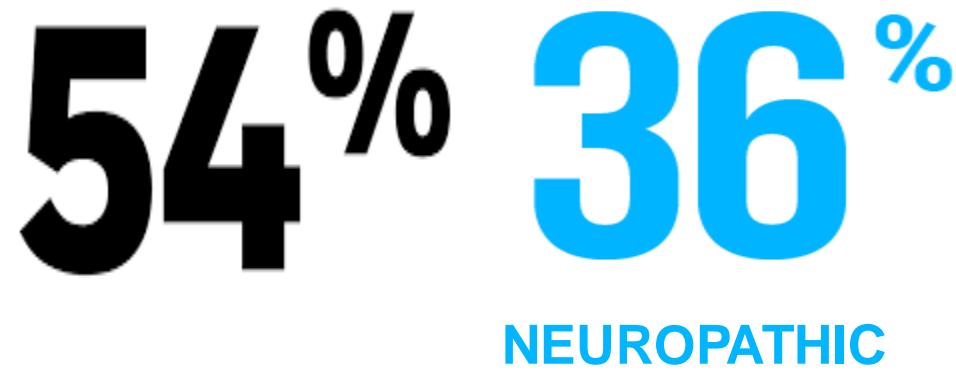
COMMENTARY

Does 'Strong Analgesic' Equal 'Strong Opioid'? Tapentadol and the Concept of ' μ -Load'

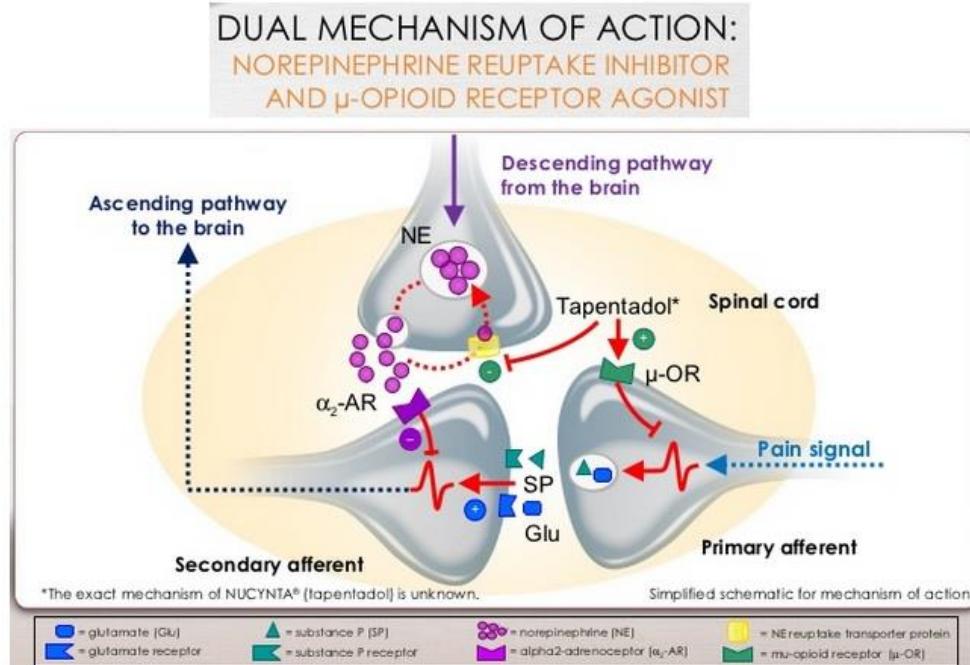
Robert B. Raffa · Christian Elling · Thomas M. Tschentke

Table 1 Summary of the calculated estimates of the contribution of tapentadol's opioid component to its analgesic (antinociceptive) action

Pain type	Source of data	Estimate (%)
Nociceptive	Animal model: LITF-r (low-intensity tail-flick test, rat)	54
Neuropathic	Animal model: SNL-r (spinal nerve ligation test, rat)	36

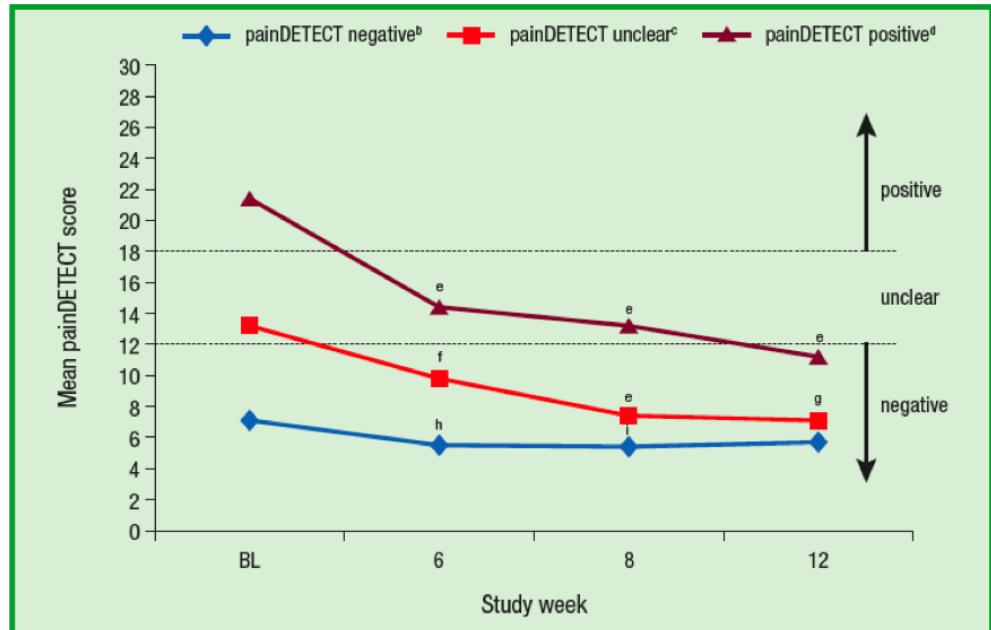
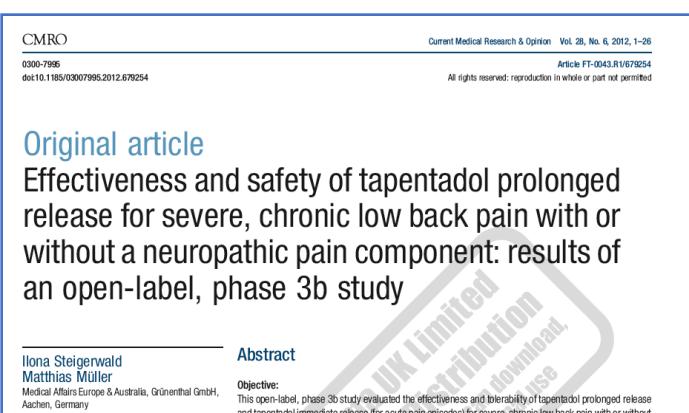


Tapentadol is ATYPICAL



Sources: Tzschentke et al, 2007; Vanderah, 2007; Pertovaara, 2006; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Tapentadol: LBP with or without NP component



Tapentadol: NECK PAIN with or without NP component

CURRENT MEDICAL RESEARCH AND OPINION

2020, VOL. 36, NO. 4, 651–659

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03007995.2020.1722083>

Article ST-0636/1722083

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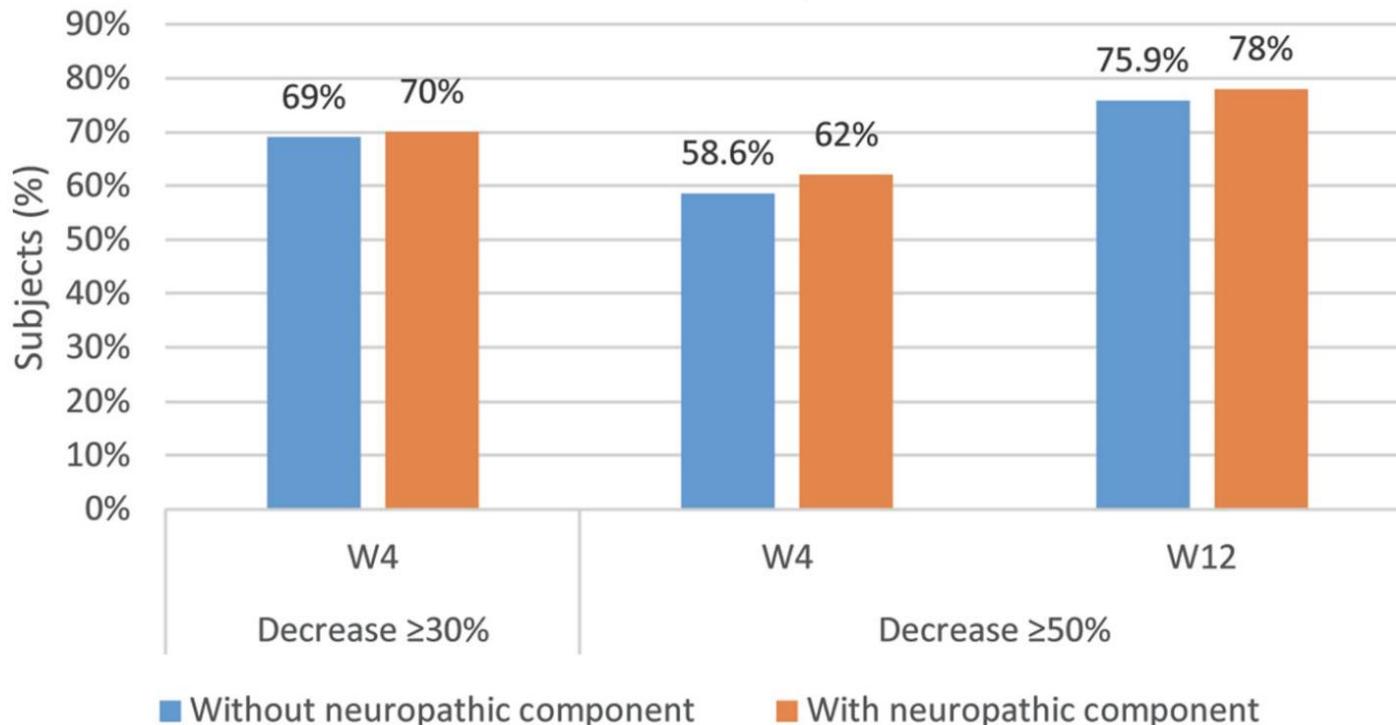
ORIGINAL ARTICLE



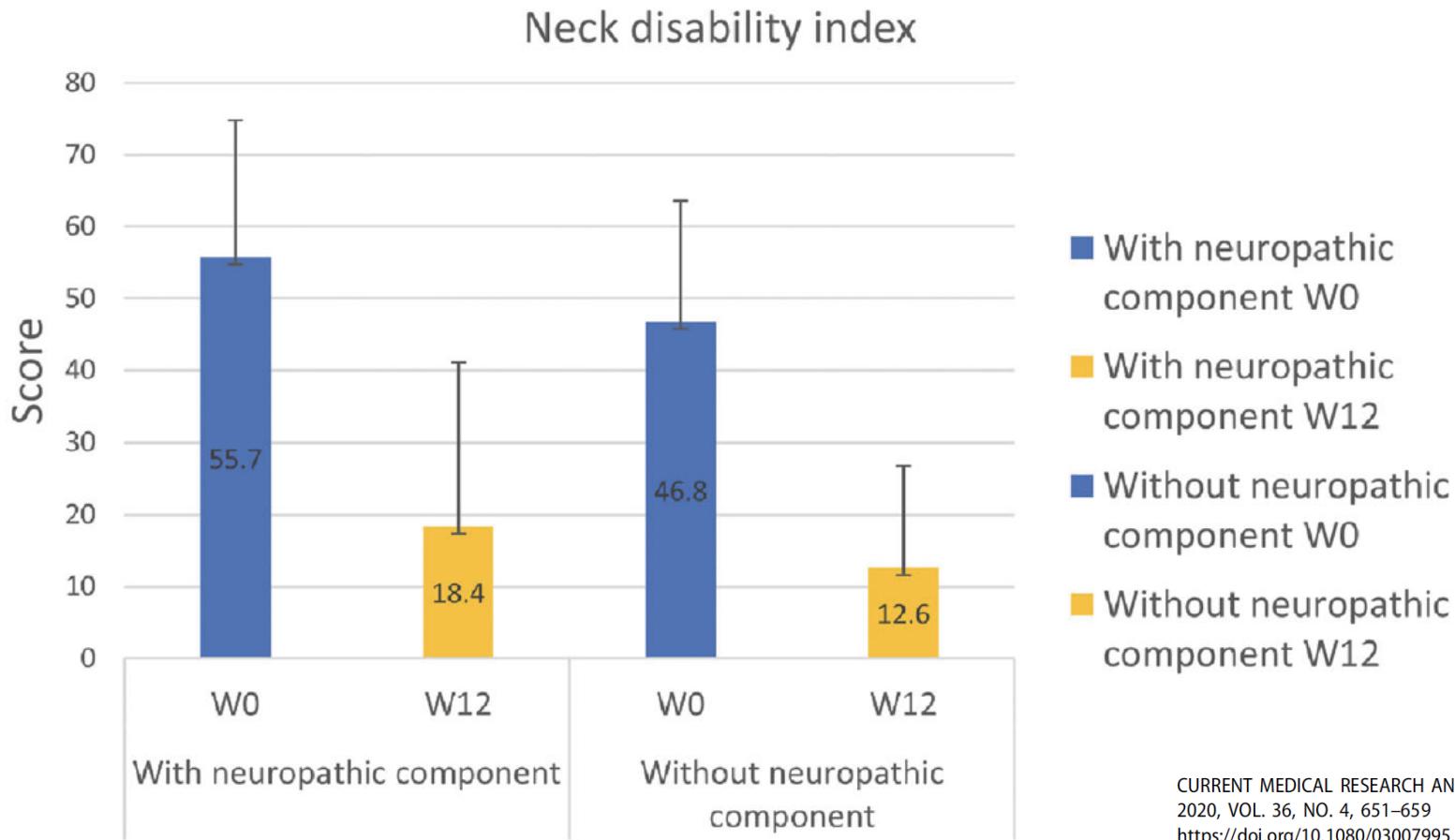
Tapentadol prolonged release for managing moderate to severe chronic neck pain with or without a neuropathic component

Flaminia Coluzzi^a, Joseph V. Pergolizzi Jr^b, Enrico Giordan^c, Pamela Locarini^a, Alessandro Boaro^c and Domenico Billeci^c

Decrease of pain



CURRENT MEDICAL RESEARCH AND OPINION
2020, VOL. 36, NO. 4, 651–659
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03007995.2020.1722083>



CURRENT MEDICAL RESEARCH AND OPINION
2020, VOL. 36, NO. 4, 651–659
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03007995.2020.1722083>



Pharmacotherapy for neuropathic pain in adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis

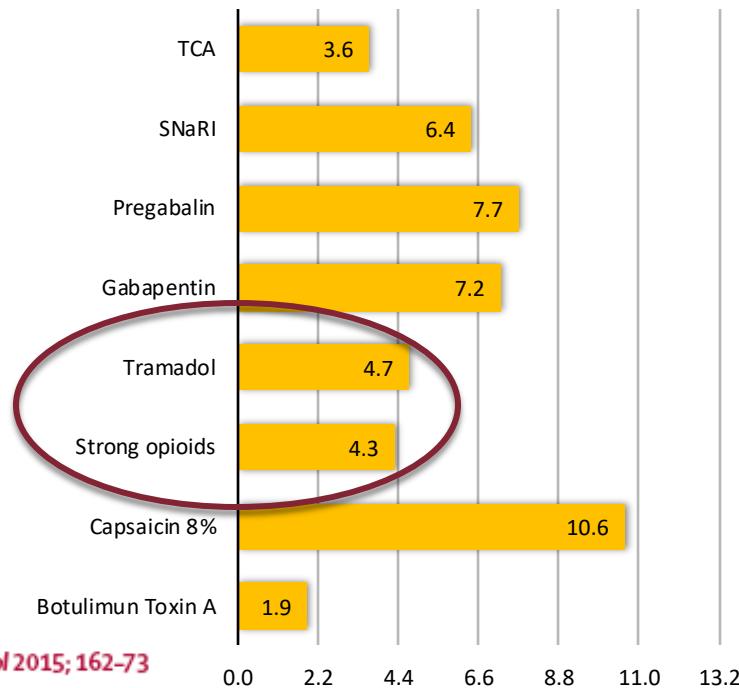
Nanna B Finnerup*, Nadine Attal*, Simon Haroutounian, Ewan McDowell, Ralf Baron, Robert H Dworkin, Ian Gilron, Maija Haanpää, Per Hansson, Troels S Jensen, Peter R Kamerman, Karen Lund, Andrew Moore, Srinivasa N Raju, Andrew S C Rice, Michael Rowbotham, Emily Sena, Philip Siddall, Blair H Smith, Mark Wallace



Lancet Neurol 2015; 162-73

Total daily dose and dose regimen		Recommendations
Strong recommendations for use		
Gapabentin	1200–3600 mg, in three divided doses	First line
Gabapentin extended release or enacarbil	1200–3600 mg, in two divided doses	First line
Pregabalin	300–600 mg, in two divided doses	First line
Serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors duloxetine or venlafaxine*	60–120 mg, once a day (duloxetine); 150–225 mg, once a day (venlafaxine extended release)	First line
Tricyclic antidepressants	25–150 mg, once a day or in two divided doses	First line†
Weak recommendations for use		
Capsaicin 8% patches	One to four patches to the painful area for 30–60 min every 3 months	Second line (peripheral neuropathic pain)‡
Lidocaine patches	One to three patches to the region of pain once a day for up to 12 h	Second line (peripheral neuropathic pain)
Tramadol	200–400 mg, in two (tramadol extended release) or three divided doses	Second line
Botulinum toxin A (subcutaneously)	50–200 units to the painful area every 3 months	Third line; specialist use (peripheral neuropathic pain)
Strong opioids	Individual titration	Third line§

NNT



Lancet Neurol 2015; 162-73

Comparisons*	Participants†	Active pain relief	Placebo	Number needed to treat (95% CI)	Susceptibility to bias‡
Tricyclic antidepressants	15	948	217/473	85/475	3.6 (3.0-4.4)
Serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors	10	2541	676/1559	278/982	6.4 (5.2-8.4)
Pregabalin	25	5940	1359/3530	578/2410	7.7 (6.5-9.4)
Gabapentin§	14	3503	719/2073	291/1430	7.2 (5.9-9.1)
Tramadol	6	741	176/380	96/361	4.7 (3.6-6.7)
Strong opioids	7	838	211/426	108/412	4.3 (3.4-5.8)
Capsaicin 8%	6	2073	466/1299	212/774	10.6 (7.4-18.8)
Botulinum toxin A	4	137	42/70	4/67	1.9 (1.5-2.4)

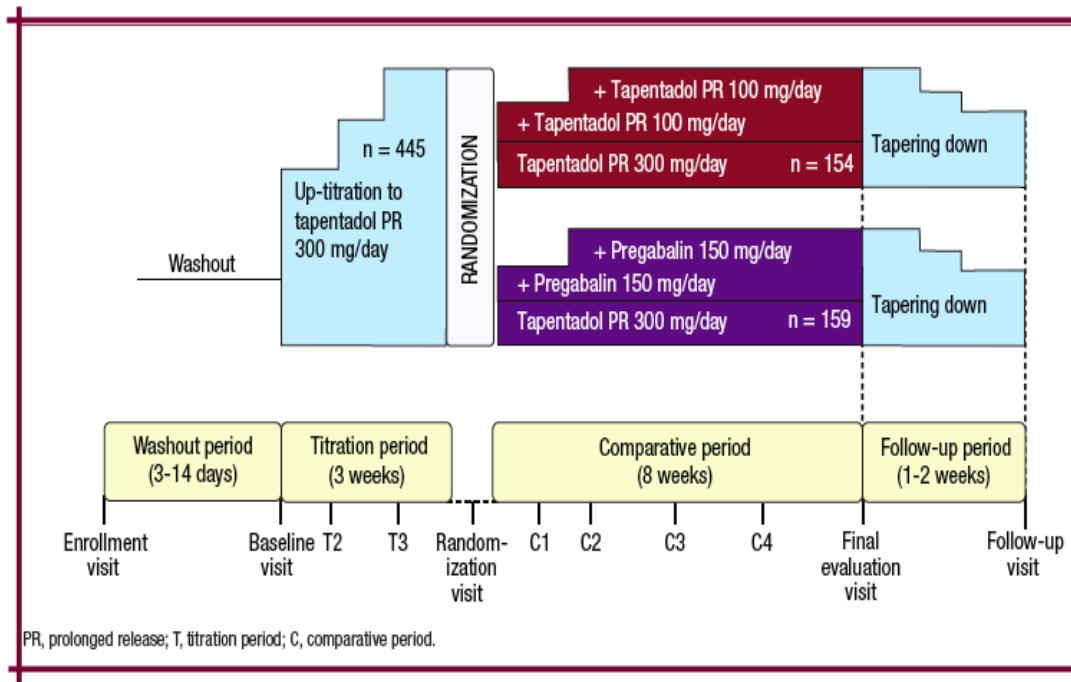
LBP with NP: Tapentadol + Pregabalin

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effectiveness and Safety of Tapentadol Prolonged Release (PR) Versus a Combination of Tapentadol PR and Pregabalin for the Management of Severe, Chronic Low Back Pain With a Neuropathic Component: A Randomized, Double-blind, Phase 3b Study

Ralf Baron, MD, PhD*; Emilio Martin-Mola, MD, PhD†; Matthias Müller, MD, MSc‡; Cecile Dubois, MS§; Dietmar Falke, PhD‡; Ilona Steigerwald, MD‡

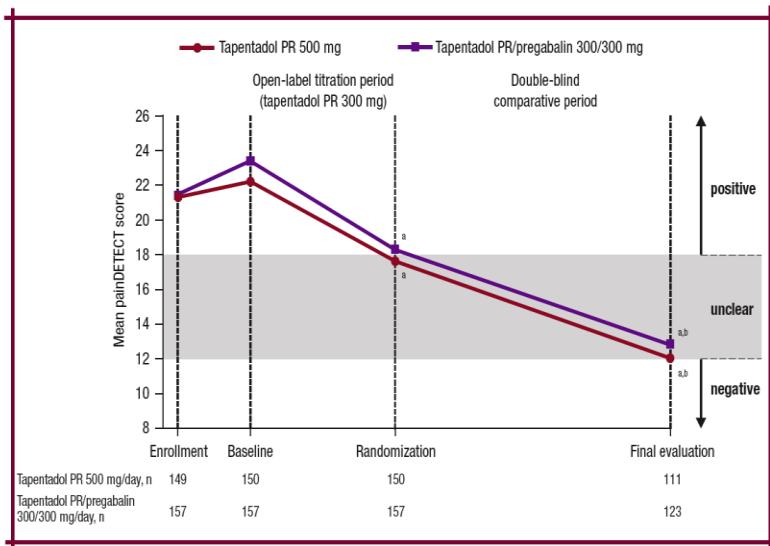
Baron R et al. Pain Pract 2016; 16(5):580-99



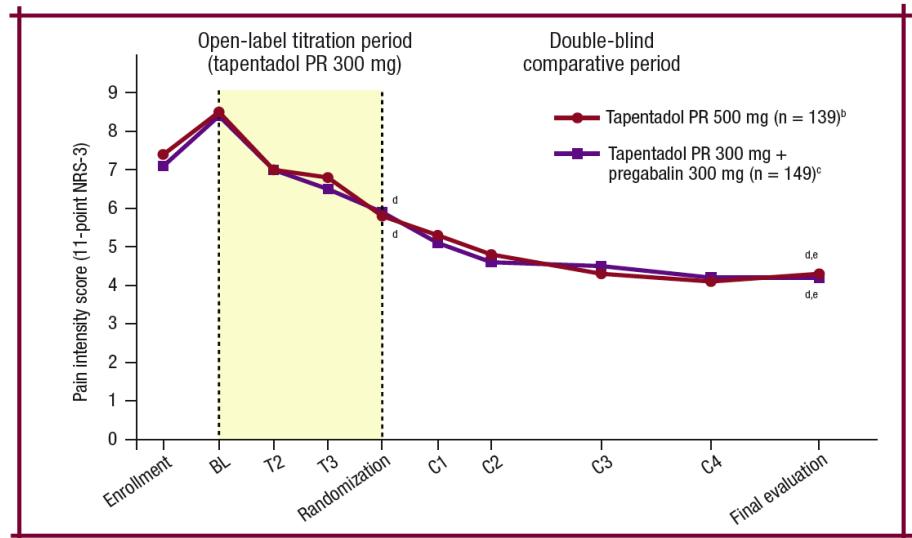
PR, prolonged release; T, titration period; C, comparative period.

LBP with NP: Tapentadol + Pregabalin

NEUROPATHIC PAIN SYMPTOMS



MEAN PAIN INTENSITY



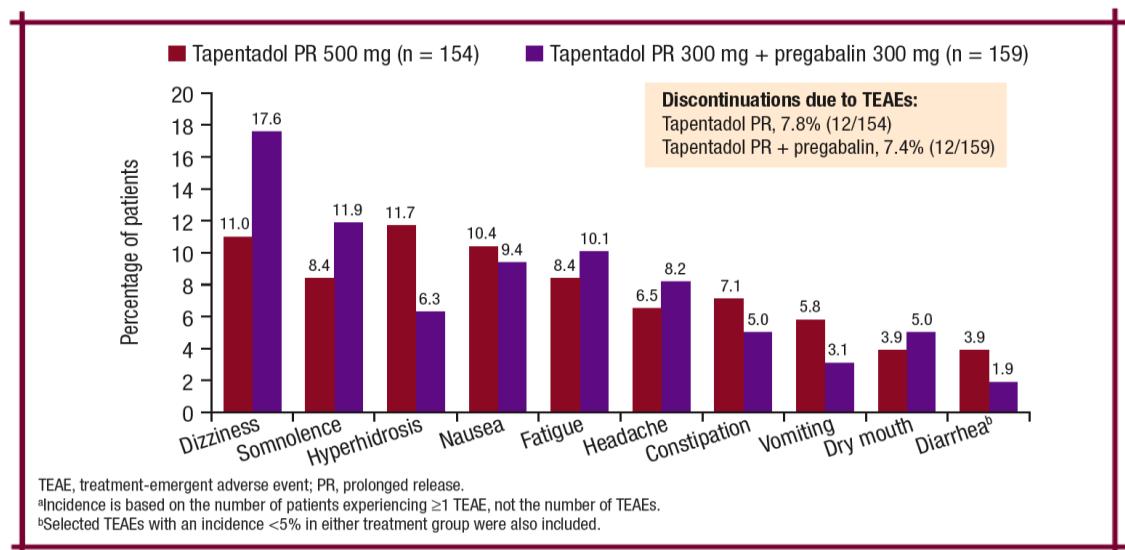
Baron R et al. Pain Pract 2016; 16(5):580-99

LBP with NP: Tapentadol + Pregabalin

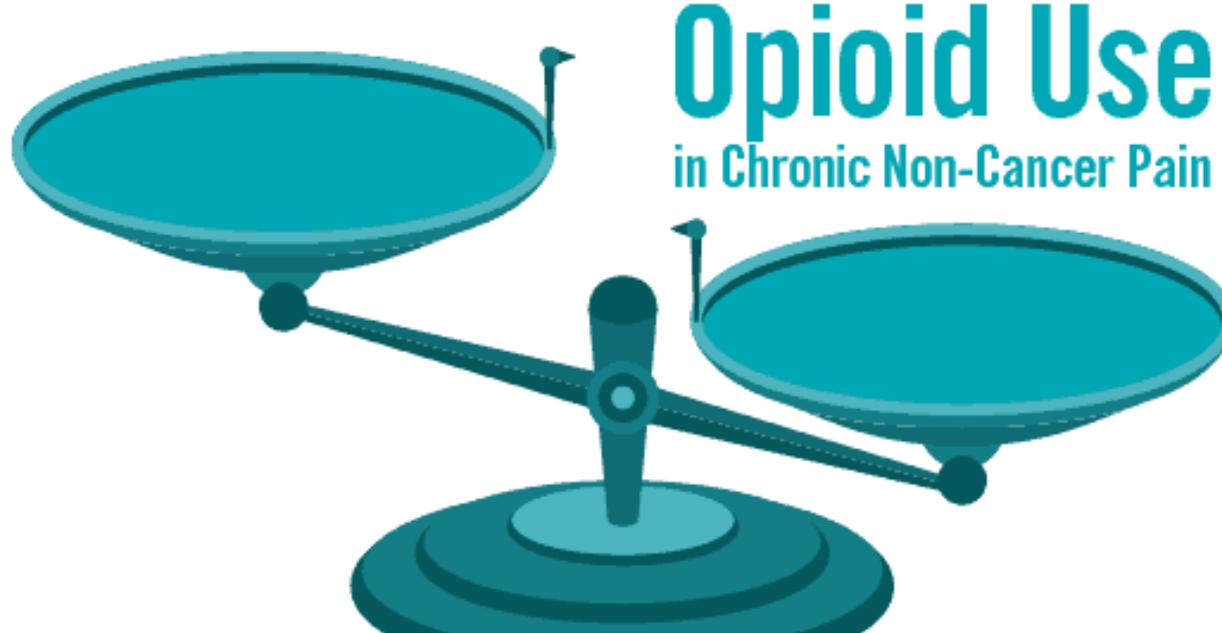


Baron R et al. Pain Pract 2016; 16(5):580-99

TEAEs > 5%



OPIOIDS for chronic non-cancer pain



Unmet NEED from “OPIOID EPIDEMIC”



The US “OPIOID EPIDEMIC”

2015's US opioid deaths...

more than one 747 plane crashing every week

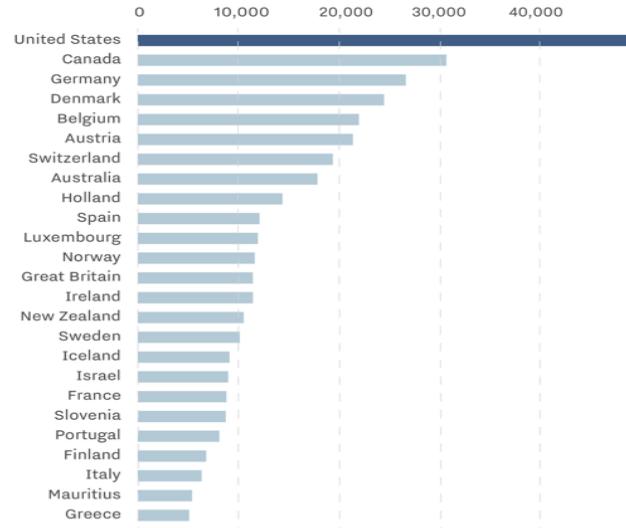


US 70% of global opioid consumption



Americans consume more opioids than any other country

Standard daily opioid dose for every 1 million people



Source: United Nations International Narcotics Control Board

Credit: Sarah Frostenson

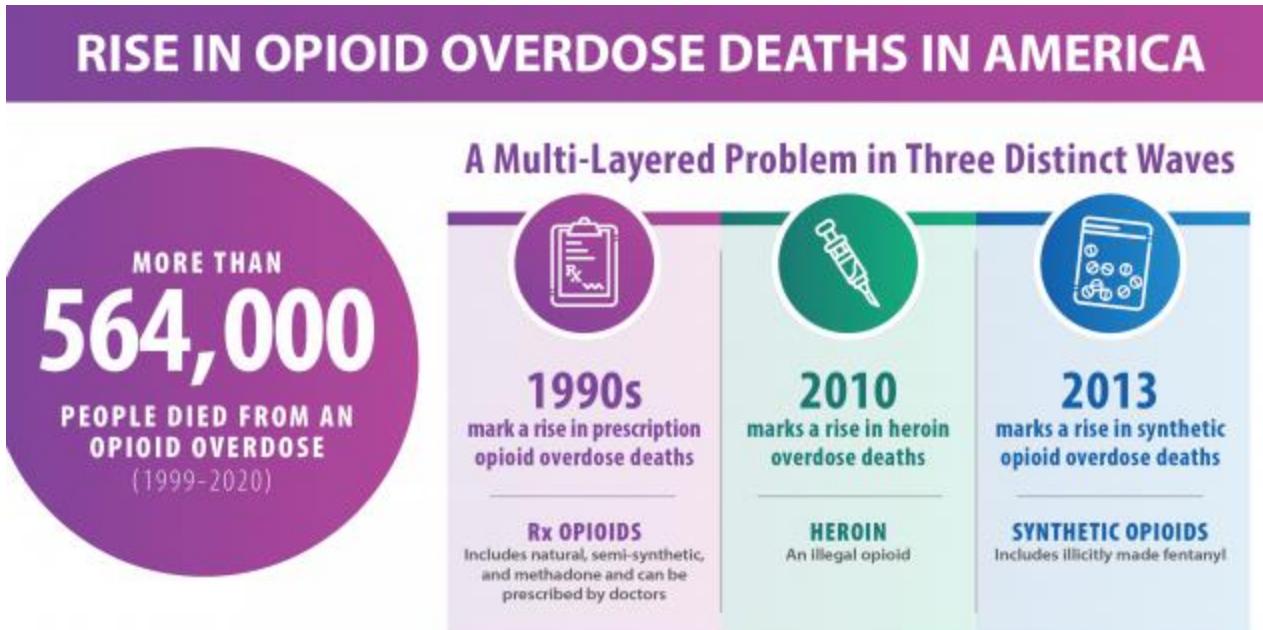
Vox

US vs EU



- 323 million: **4%** of the world's population
- 8.5 million misuse opioids: **3%**
- 22000 (2016): 27% of the world's drug overdose death
- 741 million: **10%** of the world's population
- 1.3 million misuse opioids: **0.4%**
- 6800 (2016): 8.3% of the world's drug overdose death

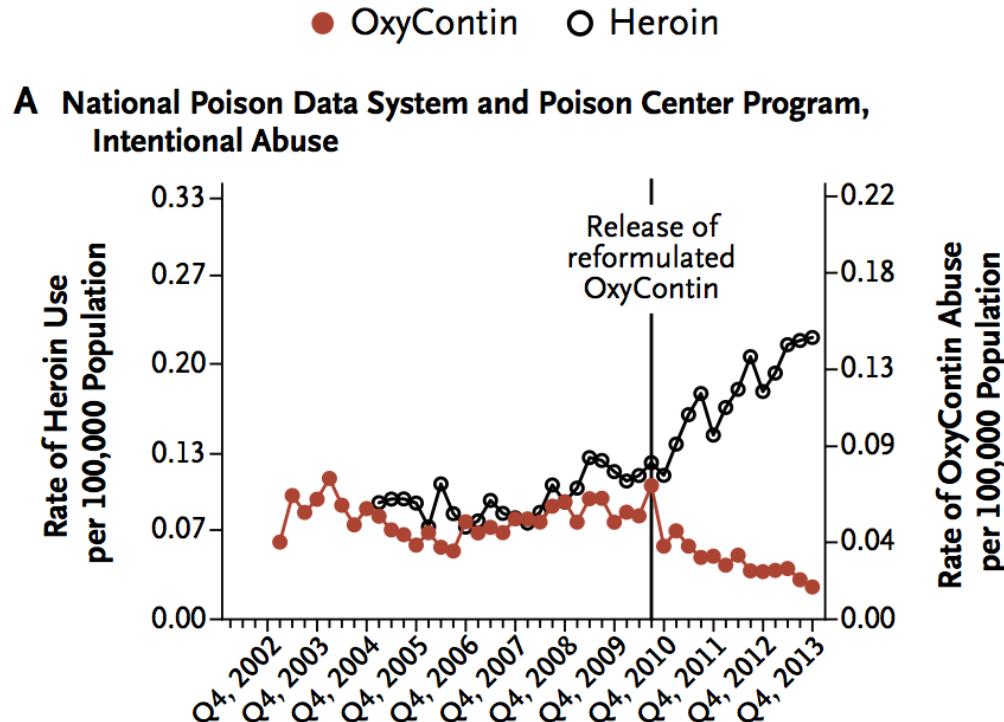
The triple wave epidemic



www.cdc.gov

Learn more about the evolving opioid overdose crisis: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose

The US political of OPIOID restriction

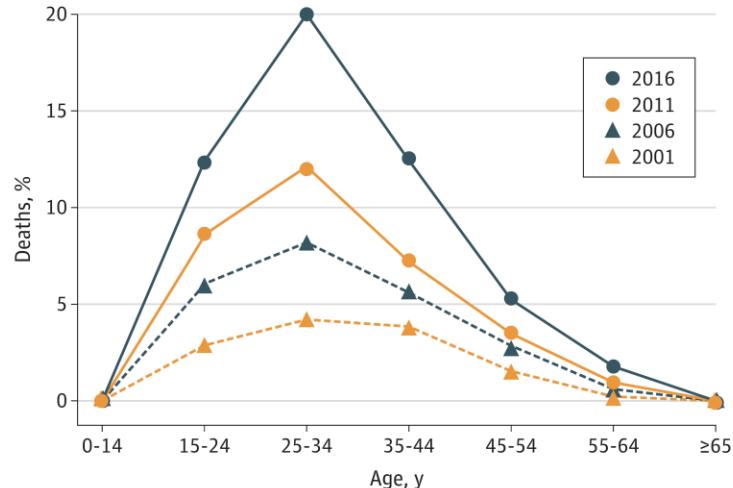




The Burden of Opioid-Related Mortality in the United States

Tara Gomes, PhD; Mina Tadrous, PharmD, PhD; Muhammad M. Mamdani, PharmD, MA, MPH; J. Michael Paterson, MSc; David N. Juurlink, MD, PhD

Figure. Proportion of Deaths Related to Opioid Use by Age Group in 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
the killer's knife and the surgeon's knife?



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
the killer's knife and the surgeon's knife?



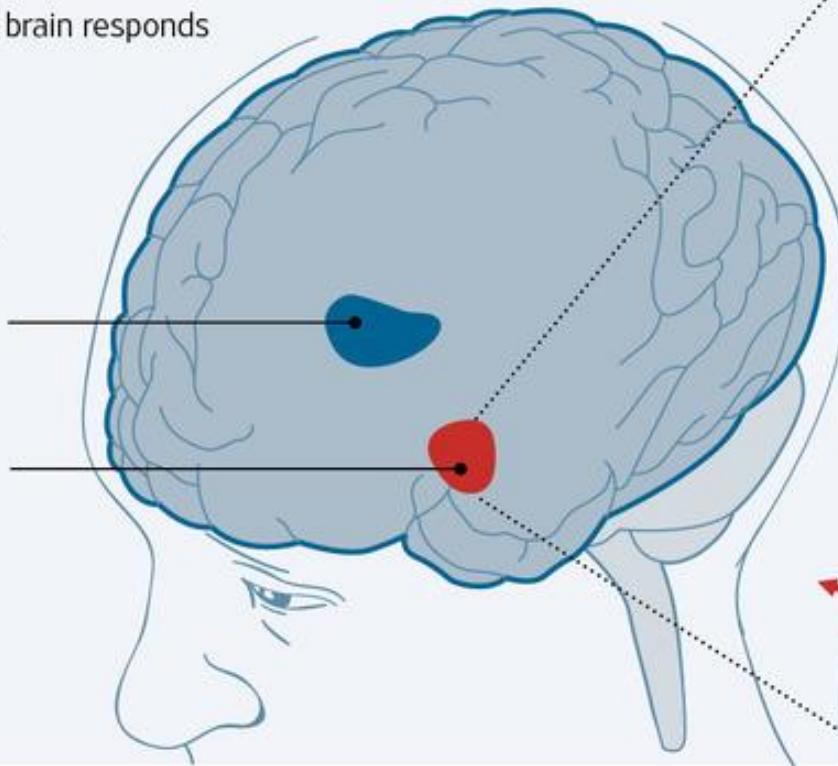
...the intention

How Addiction Affects the Brain

Two ways scientists say the brain responds to alcohol and drug abuse

In the **nucleus accumbens**, the brain's reward center, drug and alcohol use boosts dopamine, a neurotransmitter that helps produce pleasurable feelings, thus promoting more cravings.

In the **amygdala**, which processes memory and emotions, long-term substance abuse can send the stress-response system into overdrive.

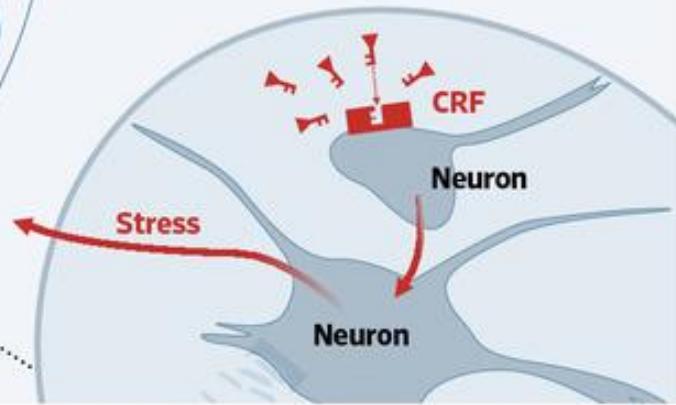


Source: George Koob, Scripps Research Institute
The Wall Street Journal

Blocking Bad Feelings

Scientists hope that by blocking a 'misery neurotransmitter' known as **CRF**, they can hinder the brain's stress response to addiction on a molecular level. A drug called gabapentin recently showed promising results.

Inside the amygdala



Not all opioids are created equal in the eyes of dopamine

EJN

EUROPEAN JOURNAL
OF NEUROSCIENCE

FENS

European Journal of Neuroscience, Vol. 40, pp. 3041–3054, 2014

doi:10.1111/ejn.12709

NEUROSYSTEMS

Rapid dopamine transmission within the nucleus accumbens: Dramatic difference between morphine and oxycodone delivery



Caitlin M. Vander Weele,^{1,†} Kirsten A. Porter-Stransky,^{1,†} Omar S. Mabrouk,² Vedran Lovic,¹ Bryan F. Singer,¹ Robert T. Kennedy² and Brandon J. Aragona^{1,3}

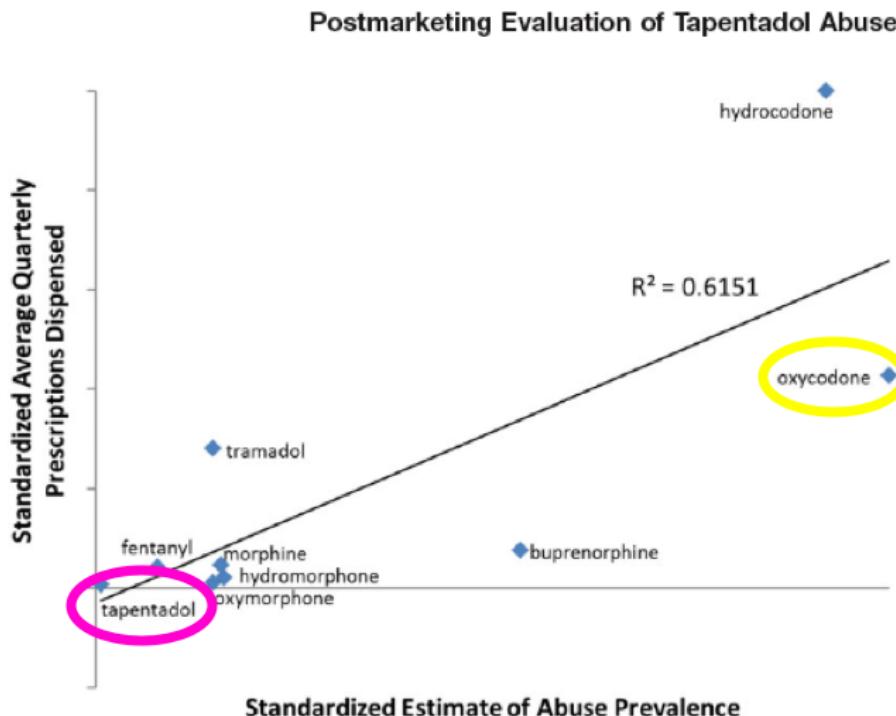
¹Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

²Departments of Chemistry and Pharmacology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

³Program in Neuroscience, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Keywords: addiction, motivation, opioid, reward

Opioids' Abuse Potential



Pain Medicine

Pain Medicine 2014; *: **
Wiley Periodicals, Inc.



Tapentadol Abuse Potential: A Postmarketing Evaluation Using a Sample of Individuals Evaluated for Substance Abuse Treatment

ARTICLE ONLINE FIRST

This provisional PDF corresponds to the article as it appeared upon acceptance.

A copyedited and fully formatted version will be made available soon.

The final version may contain major or minor changes.

“I am in pain”: is it really the magic formula to open the door of opioid abuse?

Flaminia COLUZZI

Minerva Anestesiologica 2017 Jul 20

DOI: 10.23736/S0375-9393.17.12269-8

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“I am in pain”: is it really the magic formula to open the door of opioid abuse?

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**YES, there is a problem in the US
The US cannot export
national issues globally**





Cannabis products account for
the largest share of the illicit
drug market

European Drug Report

Trends and Developments

Opioids : Cannabis = 1:17
1.3 million : 22.1 million

POSITION PAPER

European Pain Federation position paper on appropriate opioid use in chronic pain management

T. O'Brien^{1,2}, L.L. Christrup³, A.M. Drewes⁴, M.T. Fallon⁵, H.G. Kress⁶, H.J. McQuay⁷, G. Mikus⁸,
B.J. Morlion⁹, J. Perez-Cajaraville¹⁰, E. Pogatzki-Zahn¹¹, G. Varrassi¹², J.C.D. Wells¹³

Inappropriate and exaggerated fear concerning the legitimate scientific use of opioid medications as part of a comprehensive pain management strategy...

O'Brien T, Christrup LL, Drewes AM et al.
European Pain Federation Position Paper.
EurJ Pain 21 (2017) 3-19

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Silent epidemic of pain



Uncomplaining patients & unquestioning doctors
- a lethal conspiracy of silence -



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EFIC position 2021: RATIONAL USE of OPIOIDS

DOI: 10.1002/ejp.1736

POSITION PAPER



European* clinical practice recommendations on opioids for chronic noncancer pain – Part 1: Role of opioids in the management of chronic noncancer pain

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Thomas Tölle¹⁷ | Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč¹⁸

Eur J Pain. 2021;25:949–968.

1. Comprehensive clinical evaluation
 - a. Medical and psychosocial history
 - b. Medical and if necessary psychological and physiotherapeutic examination
 - c. Technical examinations
 - d. Interdisciplinary assessment if needed
2. Start treatment
 - a. Education
 - b. Non-pharmacological therapies
 - c. Non-opioids if needed
3. Consider a trial with opioids if
 - a. There is a relative indication for opioids for the type of the pain syndrome of the patient and
 - b. non-pharmacological treatment and non-opioid analgesics are
 - (i) Not effective and/or
 - (ii) Not tolerated and/or
 - (iii) Contraindicated

Eur J Pain. 2021;25:949–968.

4. Shared decision making with patients

- a. Assess individual benefit risk-ratio
- b. Consider patient's treatment preferences
- c. Obtain informed consent and agreement
- d. Establish individual and realistic treatment goals (sustained improvement of daily functioning, pain reduction)

5. Initial dose adjustment phase (8–12 weeks)

- a. Start slow, go slow
- b. Monitor and treat side effects if needed
- c. Find the optimal dosage (predefined treatment goals met; no or tolerable/manageable side effects)
- d. Discontinue if
 - (i) Predefined treatment goals not reached
 - (ii) Intolerable/manageable side effects
 - (iii) Non-medical use of prescribed opioids

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6. Long-term opioid therapy (>12 weeks)

a. Regular assessments (at least every 3 months)

b. Assess four A's: Activity, analgesia, aberrant behaviour, adverse effects

c. Promote non-pharmacological therapies

d. Continue if

(i) Stable dosage

(ii) Sustained improvement of daily functioning and pain reduction

(iii) tolerable/manageable side effects

(iv) No signals of non-medical use of prescribed opioids

e. Discuss tapering/drug holiday after 6 months with the patient

f. Discontinue if

(i) Dose escalation

(ii) Loss of improvement of daily functioning and of pain reduction

(iii) tolerable/manageable side effects

(iv) Signals of non-medical use of prescribed opioids

A_{ctivity}

A_{nalgesia}

A_{bberrant behaviour}

A_{dverse effects}

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OPIOIDS: when and how to STOP

LEARN WHEN TO STOP

TAPERING PLANNING

- Intolerable adverse effects
- Treatment goals not reached
- Patient request
- Non-adherence by the patient
- Misuse by the patient



Good clinical practice guide for opioids in pain management: the three Ts – titration (trial), tweaking (tailoring), transition (tapering)



Flaminia Coluzzi^a, Robert Taylor Jr.^b, Joseph V. Pergolizzi Jr.^{c,d,e}, Consalvo Mattia^a, Robert B. Raffa^{f,*}



TITRATION

TAILORING

TAPERING

Opioid Misconceptions



Opioid Misconceptions



O'Brien T, Christrup LL, Drewes AM et al.
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EurJ Pain 21 (2017) 3-19

- Dangerous
- Shorten life / Hasten death
- Respiratory depression
- End of life only
- Opioids kill pain by killing the patient

Opioid Misconceptions



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- Tolerance
- Addiction
- Compromise function
- Confusion / disorientation
- If a patient dies whilst on opioid medication, the opioid caused the death

Opioid Facts



Opioid Facts (1)

*for medical use in properly selected
and supervised patients*



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- Indispensable in pain management
- Safe & effective
- Do not compromise function
- Introduce when less potent medicines are ineffective
- Physical dependence is not addiction

Opioid Facts (2)

*for medical use in properly selected
and supervised patients*



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- No significant respiratory depression
- Bowel dysfunction is main concern
- Inter-individual variation in response
- No single 'ideal' opioid; therefore need a range of opioids
- Opioid misuse causes harm; not opioid use

Medical Use of Opioids (1)



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- Adequate patient assessment
- Clinicians familiar with best practice
- Non-specialists need access to expert advice
- Opioids prescribed by competent doctors
- Correct dose is the lowest possible dose

Medical Use of Opioids (2)

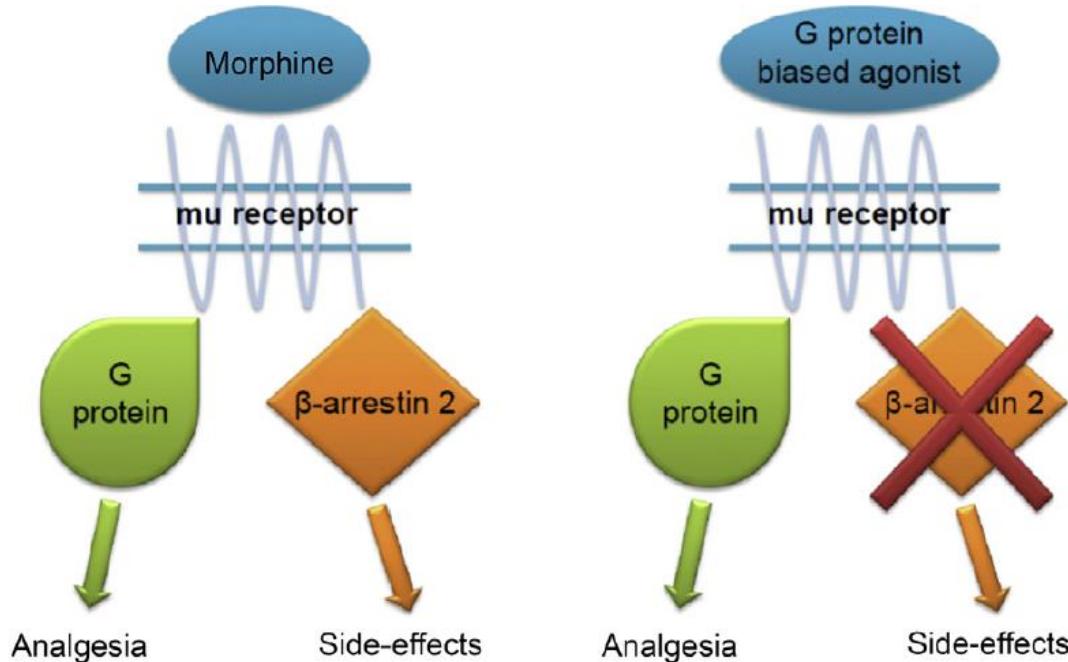


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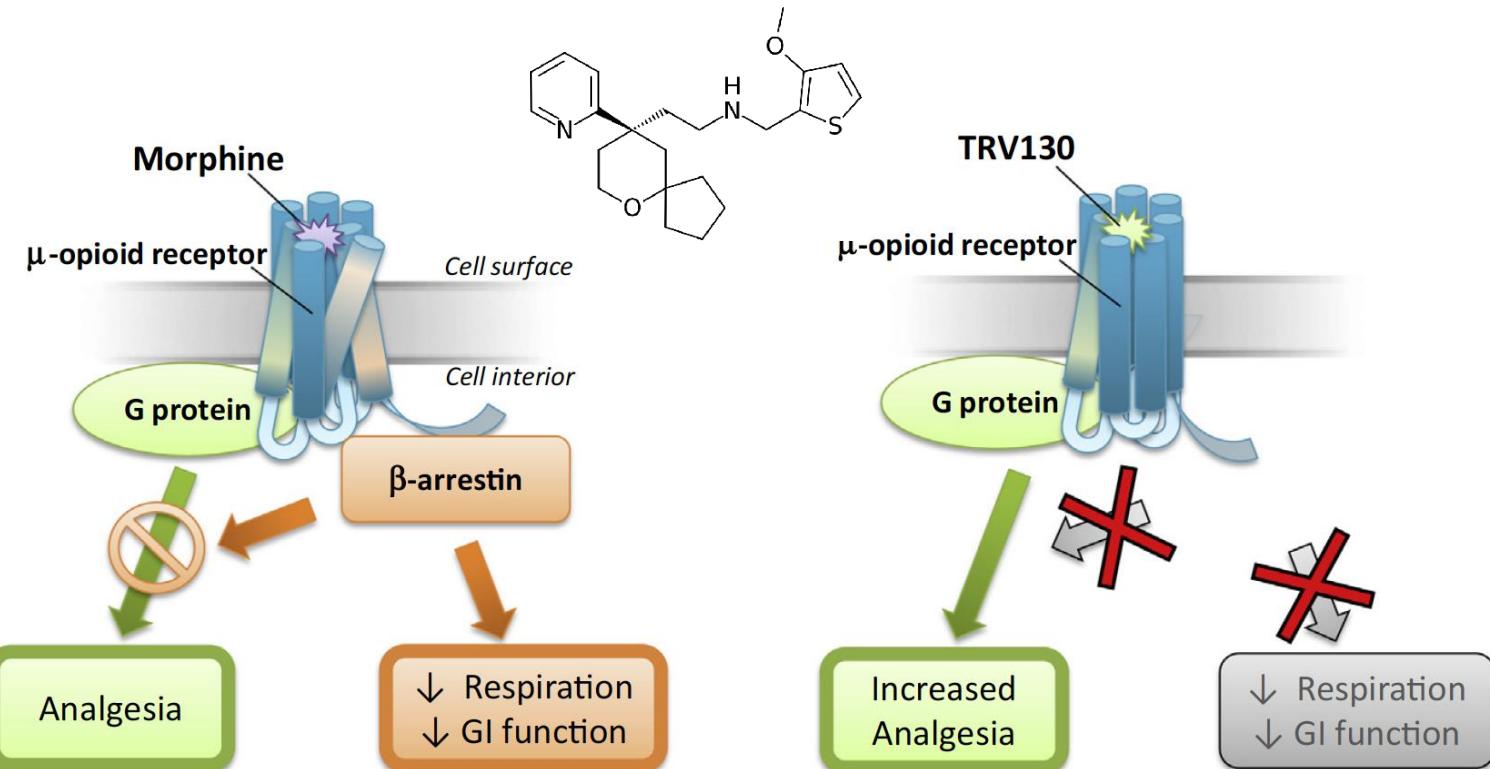
- Close on-going supervision
- Treatment initiated on trial basis
- Patient & Family education on safe use and storage
- Opioids dispensed by competent pharmacists
- Honest doctor/patient relationship

Opioids of the future

Functional selectivity or biased agonism



TRV130 Oliceridine



BASIC PAIN SUPPORT

LE BASI DELLA MEDICINA DEL DOLORE

A cura di

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