

Buprenorphine Interventions in a Pediatric and Young Adult Population

Category: Workshop

Abstract Body

Canada is in the midst of an Opioid epidemic, with “young Canadians aged 15 to 24 (as) the fastest-growing population requiring hospital care from opioid overdoses.” Several recent articles describe the risk of opioid use increase in pediatric population as a direct consequence of having access to properly prescribed opioids from a friend or family member, or misusing their own prescribed opioids. Despite the rise in opioid use amongst pediatric populations, the available evidence revolving around pediatric opioid use disorder treatment is sparse. Indeed there is evidence that practitioners may be less likely to initiate pediatric patients on opioid replacement therapy (ORT). There is evidence that buprenorphine is superior to other ORT options, and there have been studies conducted on buprenorphine initiation for an inpatient and outpatient setting in the United States. We propose to present on 37 cases of pediatric and young adult patients who were successfully initiated on buprenorphine-naloxone tablets, as well as long acting injectable buprenorphine, and review outcomes.

Key Words

- Adolescent/Young Adult Populations
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Opioids/Opiates
- Substance Use Disorder (general)
- Withdrawal Management

Learning Objective # 1

Recognize pediatric cases presenting with opioid use disorder

Learning Objective # 2

Better understand how to initiate pediatric cases onto buprenorphine

Reference # 1

Canada, H. (2019) Government of Canada, Canada’s opioid crisis (fact sheet) – Canada.ca / Gouvernement du Canada. Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/canada-opioid-crisis-fact-sheet.html> (Accessed: April 27, 2023).

Reference # 2

Yaster, M., McNaull, P.P. and Davis, P.J. (2020) “The opioid epidemic in pediatrics: a 2020 update,” Current Opinion in Anaesthesiology, 33(3), pp. 327-334. Available at: [https:// doi.org 10.1097/ACO.0000000000000865](https://doi.org/10.1097/ACO.0000000000000865)

Lead Author

Dr. J ZoBell
Physician | Virtual Opioid Dependency Program

Co-Author

Dr. Hussain Aboud
Physician | Alberta Health Services

Co-Author

Mrs. Lindsey Davis
Case Manager | Virtual Opioid Dependency Program