

Case series: New Alberta Service of integrating virtual opioid dependency program with court ordered detoxification of children with opioid disorder.

Category: Poster Presentation (in person)

Abstract Body

Introduction: Opioid addiction among youth is a growing public health concern in many countries. The novel program of integrating youth opioid dependency program treatment into court ordered detoxification for children with opioid dependency aims to provide comprehensive care to young individuals who are struggling with opioid addiction.

The program combines court-ordered detoxification (Protection of Children abusing drugs Act-Alberta) with specialized virtual youth opioid dependency program treatment to address the unique needs of young individuals. The treatment includes counseling, medication-assisted therapy, and support services to assist in the recovery process.

The integration of these two programs allows for a more comprehensive approach to addiction treatment that addresses both the physical and psychological aspects of opioid dependency. The program emphasizes the importance of ongoing support to prevent relapse and promote long-term recovery.

Method: This retrospective case series of all the clients enrolled into both PCHAD and VODP since Feb 2023. The series examined the characteristic of the clients, their treatment and follow up.

Results: They were 20 clients in this series between age 14 year to 17 year. Female 16 clients and Male 4 clients. All the clients had a history of active opioid dependency with either Fentanyl or Heroin and a history of overdose ranging from 1 episode to 3 episodes. Of 20 clients 19 started on suboxone OAT with dose range 8mg to 32mg, 1 client declined OAT. Then 14 cases switched over to sublocade successfully. Reported side effects, included constipation and dry eye.

Discussion: This case series provides evidence that integrating youth opioid dependency program treatment into court-ordered detoxification is a promising approach to address the complex needs of young individuals with opioid addiction. The comprehensive approach to treatment addresses both the physical and psychological aspects of addiction, providing a more effective evidence-based approach to care. The integration of aftercare services also highlights further benefits of such integration model in supporting long-term recovery. This novel program has the potential to significantly improve the outcomes for youth with opioid addiction undergoing court-ordered detoxification (PCHAD).

Key Words

- Adolescent/Young Adult Populations
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Opioids/Opiates
- Treatment Models/Programs

Learning Objective # 1

Understand how to safely detoxify the child and manage any withdrawal symptoms that may occur.

Learning Objective # 2

Understand how Once the child has completed detoxification, the opioid treatment program would provide ongoing addiction treatment, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), counseling, and support services.

Reference # 1

Bath E, Tolou-Shams M, Farabee D. Mobile Health (mHealth): Building the Case for Adapting Emerging Technologies for Justice-Involved Youth. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2018 Dec;57(12):903-905. doi: 10.1016/j.jaac.2018.08.012. PMID: 30522732; PMCID: PMC6527105.

Reference # 2

Robinson CA, Wilson JD. Management of Opioid Misuse and Opioid Use Disorders Among Youth. *Pediatrics*. 2020 May;145(Suppl 2):S153-S164. doi: 10.1542/peds.2019-2056C. PMID: 32358206; PMCID: PMC7880138.

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