

Modified Micro-induction in a Northern Setting: Experience with Rapid Buprenorphine Induction with Fentanyl Use

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Managing opioid use disorder in remote northern communities has proved challenging due to a number of systemic barriers, including, but not limited to, lack of consistent providers, lack of necessary support services such as dispensing pharmacies, and concerns about stigma. Currently, OAT programs are lacking in most Northern Manitoba First Nations communities. The pandemic created the urgency required to begin to deliver OAT in one such community, Red Sucker Lake First Nation, where the need was pressing. The consistent drug of choice has been fentanyl, which, with its long half-life, has made induction to sublingual buprenorphine challenging due to fears of causing precipitated withdrawal. The authors report on the development of a modified micro-induction technique which has resulted in over 160 successful inductions over 24-48 hours in patients presenting in no apparent withdrawal due to recent fentanyl use, with no incidents of precipitated withdrawal reported. The authors report on outcomes of the program overall, which demonstrates a safe, culturally appropriate, effective and cost-efficient way to provide OAT in remote, resource poor areas.

Key Words

- Advocacy
- Caring in Crisis
- COVID-19
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion issues
- Ethical issues
- Indigenous Groups
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Pharmacologic Interventions
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Sociocultural Factors
- Treatment Models/Programs
- Virtual Care
- Withdrawal Management
- Women/Pregnancy/Neonatal Issues

Learning Objective # 1

Attendees will learn an approach to buprenorphine induction in the setting of long-acting opiate use that allows rapid induction, and is safe and effective

Learning Objective # 2

Attendees will learn the key components of starting an OAT program in a remote First Nation community, addressing the unique barriers posed by systemic barriers

Reference # 1

Wong, J.S.H., Nikoo, M., Westenberg, J.N. et al. Comparing rapid micro-induction and standard induction of buprenorphine/naloxone for treatment of opioid use disorder: protocol for an open-label, parallel-group, superiority, randomized controlled trial. *Addict Sci Clin Pract* 16, 11 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13722-021-00220-2>

Reference # 2

Hämmig R, Kemter A, Strasser J, von Bardeleben U, Gugger B, Walter M, et al. Use of microdoses for induction of buprenorphine treatment with overlapping full opioid agonist use: the Bernese method. *Subst Abuse Rehabil.* 2016;7:99–105

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