

## ATYPICAL OPIOIDS

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## Atypical Opioids

- What are they?
- How do they differ?
- Who may they suit?
- Initiating atypical opioids
- Weaning atypical opioids
- Switching from
  1. more traditional opioids
  2. other atypical opioids

## Atypical Opioids

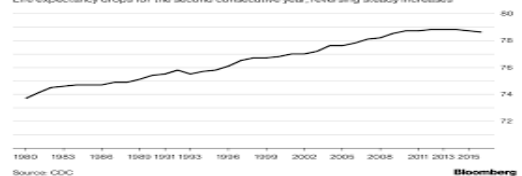
- Tapentadol(Palexia)
- Tramadol
- Transdermal Buprenorphine(Norspan,Temgesic)



## Conventional Opioids. What Crisis?

### Life is Shorter

Life expectancy drops for the second consecutive year, reversing steady increases



## Problems With Opioids

- Opioid Overdose Deaths - Intentional death
  - Intentional misuse
  - Accidental

## Problems With Opioids

- Addiction
- Dependence
- Abstinence Symptoms (Withdrawals)
- Tolerance
- Opioid Induced Hyperalgesia
- Adverse Effects
- Endocrine Effects of Opioids

## Evidence For Opioids

### Double Blind RCTs?

- Adverse Effects
- Drop Out Rates
- Length of trial v adverse effects

## Atypical Opioids

- Buprenorphine
- Tramadol
- Tapentadol

## Atypical Opioids

- Why do pain specialists view them differently?
- Different mechanisms of action
- Different potentials for physical dependence
  - withdrawals
  - tolerance
- Different toxicity profiles
- Different potential for opioid induced hyperalgesia
- Lesser attractiveness on illicit market

## Are All Opioids Equal?

### Buprenorphine Transdermal (Norspan)

- Mechanisms of Action
- Adverse effects
- Interactions
- Evidence

## Are All Opioids Equal?

### Tramadol

- Mechanisms of Action
- Adverse effects
- Interactions
- Evidence

## Are All Opioids Equal?

### Tapentadol(Palexia)

- Mechanisms of Action
- Adverse effects
- Interactions
- Evidence

## Selection Considerations

### Medication and patient related

- Tolerance
- Dose escalation
- Adverse effects
- Pain types nociceptive  
neuropathic  
fibromyalgia  
opioid induced hyperalgesia

## Selection Considerations

### Comorbidities

- History of problems with dependency and or misuse(Opioid risk tool)
- Renal
- Hepatic
- Serotonin Syndrome
- Seizure Threshold

## Initiation In Opioid Naïve Individuals

Buprenorphine  
Tapentadol  
Tramadol

## Switching from Conventional to Atypical Opioids

### 'Tricks of the Trade'

- Analgesic equivalence charts NOT opioid equivalence charts
- Covering opioid abstinence symptoms

## Opioid Rationalisation Approaches

- The role of atypicals
- Dose limits and avoidance of dose escalation
- Dose reduction
- Opioid cessation
- Role as a “back up” after cessation

## Take home messages

- Use of more conventional opioids is challenging and often problematic
- Atypical opioids may provide potentially safer and more effective management, especially in certain higher risk groups
- Care needs to be taken in rotation from typical to atypical opioids and vice versa