

## ATYPICAL OPIOIDS

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## Atypical Opioids

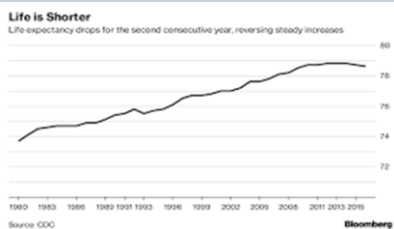
- What are they?
- How do they differ?
- Who may they suit?
- Initiating atypical opioids
- Weaning atypical opioids
- Switching from
  - 1.more traditional opioids
  - 2.other atypical opioids

## Atypical Opioids

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



## Conventional Opioids. What Crisis?



## 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

- 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

## Atypical Opioids

- Buprenorphine
- Tramadol
- Tapentadol

## Are All Opioids Equal?

- Buprenorphine Transdermal (Norspan)
- Mechanisms of Action
  - Withdrawals
  - Tolerance and OIH
  - Adverse effects and toxicity
  - Interactions
  - Dose limits
  - Attractiveness on the illicit market
  - Evidence

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### Tapentadol(Palexia)

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## 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)
- Hepatic
- Renal
- Serotonin Syndrome
- Seizure Threshold

## Switching from Conventional to Atypical Opioids

### 'Tricks of the Trade'

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

67 yo male  
LBP T2DM

Started on PRN Endone.

Gradually escalating over 4 years to Targin 20/10 BD

Noted to have an eGFR of 48

Risks and Options?

- 45yo male with a history of alcoholism with PNP and LBP.
- On Transdermal Fentanyl(Duragesic) 25mcg/hr.
- A son on Methadone program.

Options and Risks?

- A 68yo female with a history of OA knees and FM
  - On Oxycontin 40mg Bd
  - Low distress levels
- Risks and options?

### 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 vicer versa