TITLE: Naltrexone for the Treatment of Alcohol Dependence: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 16 January 2009

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of naltrexone for the treatment of alcohol dependence in adults?

2. What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of naltrexone versus aversive medications and therapy programs for the treatment of alcohol dependence in adults?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 1999 and January 2009, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and randomized controlled trials. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials.

One health technology assessment, five systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and 24 randomized controlled trials were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of naltrexone and its comparative clinical effectiveness versus aversive medications and therapy programs for the treatment of alcohol dependence in adults. Relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and randomized controlled trials published between 1999 and 2003 are located in the appendix. Additional articles of interest are also located in the appendix.

Disclaimer: The Health Technology Inquiry Service (HTIS) is an information service for those involved in planning and providing health care in Canada. HTIS responses are based on a limited literature search and are not comprehensive, systematic reviews. The intent is to provide a list of sources of the best evidence on the topic that CADTH could identify using all reasonable efforts within the time allowed. HTIS responses should be considered along with other types of information and health care considerations. The information included in this response is not intended to replace professional medical advice, nor should it be construed as a recommendation for or against the use of a particular health technology. Readers are also cautioned that a lack of good quality evidence does not necessarily mean a lack of effectiveness particularly in the case of new and emerging health technologies, for which little information can be found, but which may in future prove to be effective. While CADTH has taken care in the preparation of the report to ensure that its contents are accurate, complete and up to date, CADTH does not make any guarantee to that effect. CADTH is not liable for any loss or damages resulting from use of the information in the report.

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Health technology assessments

   CRD abstract: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=32003000004

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


   CRD abstract: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=10000001867

   CRD abstract: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=12004006214

Randomized controlled trials


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Health technology assessments

   CRD abstract: [http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=32000008240](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=32000008240)
   AHRQ structured abstract: [http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/alcotp.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/alcotp.htm)

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


   CRD abstract: [http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=12002000044](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/ShowRecord.asp?ID=12002000044)


Randomized controlled trials


**Randomized controlled trials – secondary analyses**


Observational studies