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

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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.
Health technology assessments


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


PREPARED BY:
Michelle Clark, BSc, Research Assistant
Carolyn Spry, MLIS, Information Specialist
Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: htis@cadth.ca
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Health technology assessments


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


**Randomized controlled trials – secondary analyses**


**Observational studies**