CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

Low Dose Naltrexone for the Treatment of Any Cancer Type: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines
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Acknowledgments:

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About CADTH: CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing Canada’s health care decision-makers with objective evidence to help make informed decisions about the optimal use of drugs, medical devices, diagnostics, and procedures in our health care system.
Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of low dose naltrexone for the treatment of any cancer type?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines associated with the use of low dose naltrexone for the treatment of any cancer type?

Key Findings

No relevant literature was found regarding low dose naltrexone for the treatment of any cancer type.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2008 and December 17, 2018. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Patients (adults and children) with any type of cancer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Low dose naltrexone alone or in combination with other treatment modalities (e.g., chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, stem cell transplant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Q1: Standard of care treatment for the given cancer: chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, stem cell transplant; Placebo + standard of care versus low dose naltrexone + standard of care; Best supportive care; No comparator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Q2: No comparator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Q1: Clinical Effectiveness (e.g., response rate, survival, progression-free survival, quality of life) and safety (toxicity, adverse events, discontinuation)</td>
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<td>Q2: Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Results

Rapid Response 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, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or evidence-based guidelines were found regarding low dose naltrexone for the treatment of any cancer type.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was found regarding low dose naltrexone for the treatment of any cancer type; therefore, no summary can be provided.

References Summarized

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified

Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified
Appendix — Further Information

Previous CADTH Reports


Review Articles


Clinical Trial Registration


Additional References