TITLE: Combination Benzodiazepine-Opioid Use: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 26 March 2015

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence on the risk of serious adverse events associated with combination benzodiazepine-opioid use for adults with chronic non-cancer pain?

2. What is the comparative efficacy and safety of combination benzodiazepine-opioid use compared with opioids alone for chronic non-cancer pain with or without comorbidity?

3. What is the comparative clinical evidence on different benzodiazepine-opioid treatment strategies?

4. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding combination benzodiazepine-opioid use?

KEY FINDINGS

One systematic review, two non-randomized studies, and three evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding combination benzodiazepine-opioid use.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2015, Issue 3), 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 for question #1, #2 and #3. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines for question #4. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and March 6, 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.
SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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<tr>
<th>Table 1: Selection Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Intervention</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Comparator</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Study Designs</strong></td>
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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.

One systematic review, two non-randomized studies, and three evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding combination benzodiazepine-opioid use. No relevant health technology assessments or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

2. Turner BJ, Liang Y. Drug Overdose in a Retrospective Cohort with Non-cancer pain Treated with Opioids, Antidepressants, and/or Sedative-Hypnotics: Interactions with

Guidelines and Recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Systematic Reviews – Unspecified Pain Type


Non-Randomized Studies

Other Outcome


Unspecified Pain Type


Clinical Practice Guidelines


Review Articles


Additional References