

“Case Studies on Opioid Use in Patients with Pre-existing Tolerance and/or Opioid Toxicity”



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Case Study #1



- 20 year old female seen for the treatment of her epilepsy
- Admitted to the hospital where medication reconciliation reveals oxycodone and hydrocodone being taken at 170 MME daily
- Diagnosis-Low Back Pain-MRI shows small disc protrusion and mild arthritic changes
- Only other medications are AEDs

Further Discussion



- “Use of anything for arthritis?” “oxycodone.”
- “Physical therapy?” “didn’t help”
- “Specialist in arthritis?” “no, the pain meds work”
- “Open to trying something besides pain meds?”
“sure.....but I need my oxycontin”

Prevalence



United States (2010 data)

- ~200,000 past-month users of heroin in the U.S. population
- ~5.1 million past-month users of diverted prescription opiates
- Diverted opiates 25x more common than heroin
- Rates increasing

Case Study #2



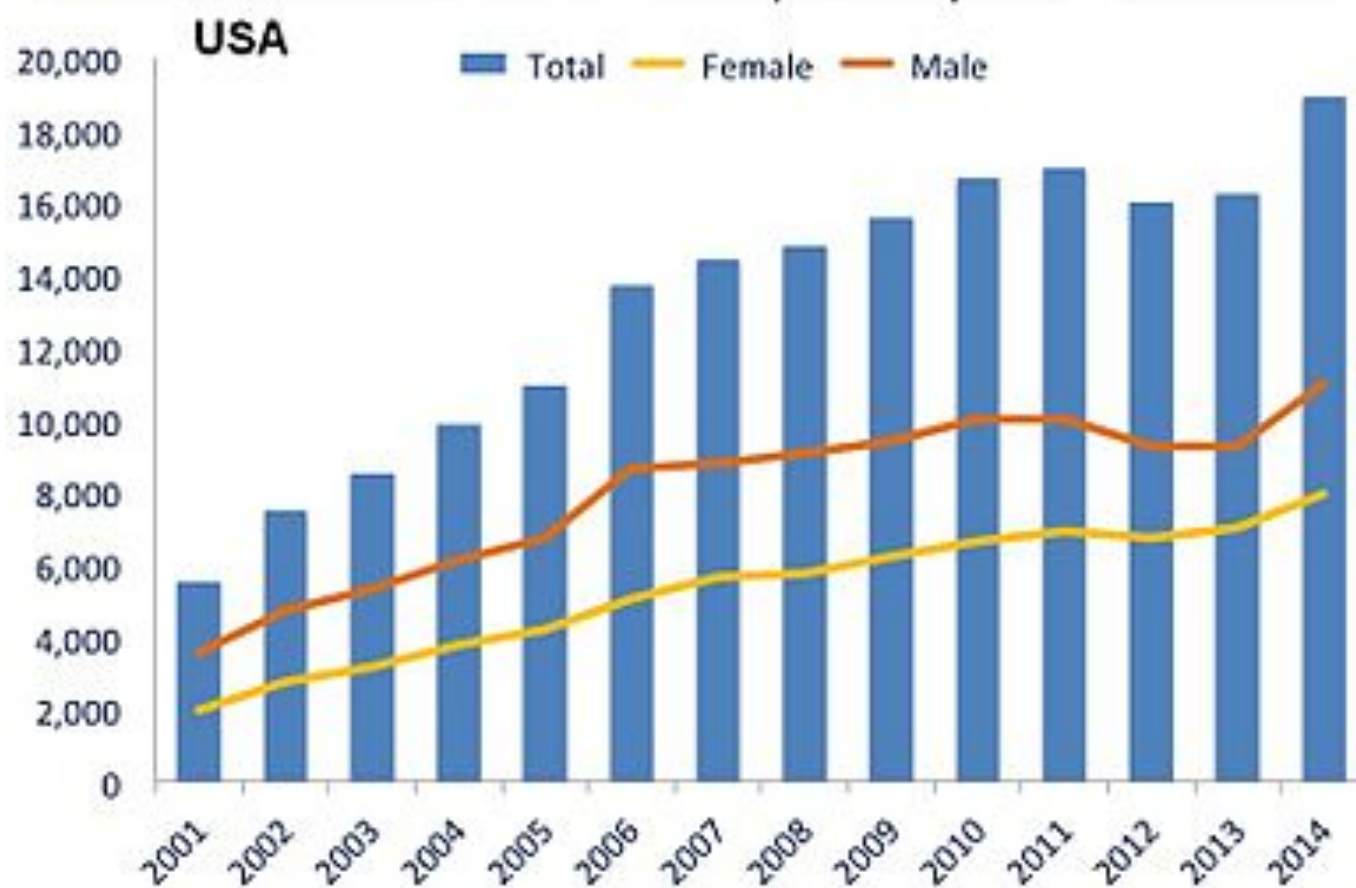
- 17 year old male athlete with meniscus tear
- MRI documents small tear left medial area
- Comes in for sports physical
- Prescriptions for Vicodin provided by orthopedist filled every time due
- Walks into visit and climbs up on exam table
- Minimal pain on knee manipulation

Further Discussion



- “Still using the Vicodin?” “here and there”
- “Have you tried ibuprofen?” “didn’t help”
- “Do you elevate the knee?” “don’t need to anymore”
- “Do you think you can stop the Vicodin?” “sure anytime I want to”
- “How about now?” “what? Season starts next week”

Number of Deaths from Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

Case Study #3



- 13 year old male presents at annual visit
- Weight is down and off growth scale
- No problems reported with appetite
- Tired in school but states no worse than other kids
- Grades are not as good but reports new hobby of pottery taking a lot of time

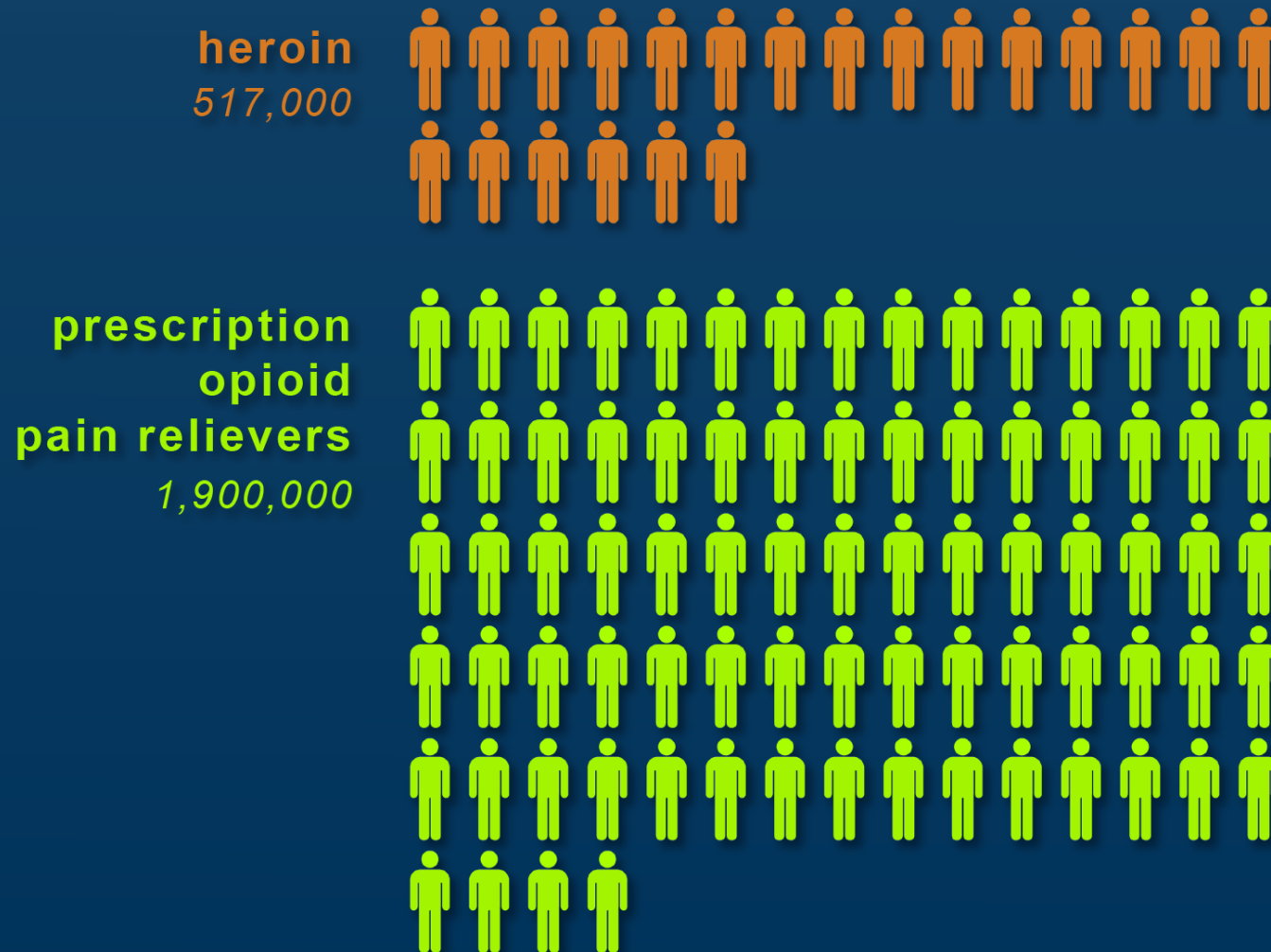
Further Discussion



- “Are you doing well with friends?” “yeah”
- “Still like school?” “yeah its okay”
- “You’ve lost quite a bit of weight?” “yeah”
- “Why?” “donno”
- “Taking any medicines?” “no”
- “Any recreational medications?” “why do you ask?”

Heroin vs. Prescription Opioids

Drug dependence or abuse in the past year 2013*



* Note that the terms dependence and abuse as used in the NSDUH are based on the diagnostic categories used in DSM-IV; in the DSM-V, those categories have been replaced by a single Substance Use Disorder spectrum.

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)



ASAM The Value of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

Assessment Questions



- **Chronic Opioid Use is appropriate in**
 1. Low Back Pain
 2. Acute injuries
 3. In malignancies
 4. To help ease withdrawal
- **Screening Questions for substance abuse can include**
 1. Interests
 2. Friendships
 3. Job or school performance
 4. All of the above