

## What is the Appropriate Role of Nonopioids for Acute and Chronic Pain?

Joseph Pergolizzi Jr <sup>1</sup>, Laura Catalina Cortes <sup>2</sup>, Peter Magnusson <sup>3,4</sup>, Jo Ann K. LeQuang <sup>5</sup>, Frank Breve <sup>6</sup>, Kailyn Mitchell <sup>7</sup>, Maninder Chopra <sup>8</sup>, Antonella Paladini <sup>9</sup>, Giustino Varrassi <sup>10</sup>

1. Chief Operating Officer, Nema Research, Inc, Naples, USA 2. Research, NEMA Research Group, Naples, FL, USA 3. Cardiology, Center of Research and Development Region Gävleborg /Uppsala University, Gävle, SWE 4. Medicine, Cardiology Research Unit, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, SWE 5. NEMA Research, Inc., Naples, Florida, USA 6. Department of Pharmacy, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA 7. NEMA Research, Naples, USA 8. Research, NEMA Research Group, Naples, USA 9. Department of MESVA, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, ITA 10. President, Paolo Procacci Foundation, Rome, ITA

**Corresponding author:** Jo Ann K. LeQuang, jppmd@msn.com

**Categories:** Anesthesiology, Pain Management, Other

**Keywords:** analgesia, clinical pharmacology, acute pain, chronic pain, non-opioids

### How to cite this abstract

Pergolizzi Jr J, Cortes L, Magnusson P, et al. (August 05, 2021) What is the Appropriate Role of Nonopioids for Acute and Chronic Pain?. Cureus 13(8): a597

## Abstract

### Objective

Opioids are effective analgesics with notable limitations which may include; side effects, possible dependence and tolerance, exposure to the risk of opioid use disorder, and potentially life-threatening respiratory depression. The objective was to evaluate the safety and efficacy of nonopioids, as monotherapy or in combination with opioids, for both acute and chronic pain conditions.

### Methods

This was a narrative review that involved a literature search of relevant recent clinical trials (last 5 years). A total of 32 clinical studies were retrieved and included.

### Results

In the dental pain model, musculoskeletal pain model, and other acute conditions, nonopioids provided effective analgesia with few or no side effects. In postoperative pain, combination therapy using a small amount of opioid with a larger amount of nonopioid analgesic was effective in treating pain and resulted in a lower cumulative consumption of opioids. Long-term analgesia for chronic noncancer pain is controversial although, opioids such as tapentadol or a combination product may be appropriate for selected patients.

### Conclusion

Nonopioids can often be used for acute and chronic pain conditions on their own, or in combination with opioids. In general, nonopioids are associated with fewer adverse events.

### Open Access

#### Abstract

Published 08/05/2021

### Copyright

© Copyright 2021

Pergolizzi Jr et al. This is an open access abstract distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License CC-BY 4.0., which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Distributed under

Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0