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Opioid Epidemic

To treat moderate to severe pain conditions, for example, pain connected with trauma, morphine and several others, opioids are extensively used in the medical centers. Opioids are anti-depressants that are used for the release of symptoms of depression, anxiety, and dejection. Opioids are most frequently used for postoperative pain, and other chronic pain management (Cicero and Ellis). Opioids are also used for nonmalignant pain and migraine pain management and treatment. Recent studies have shown that opioids are in use more than they were before. Prescription of opioids is a challenging situation for healthcare providers in recent years. Though, recent studies have shown that misuse, and overuse of opioids is significantly increasing. The over-prescription of opioids is because pain management and pain control pathway are misunderstood among healthcare providers. The endogenous pathway of pain management should be known and explained to the patients to reduce the misuse of opioids (Cicero and Ellis). The epidemic of opioids is increasing and major contribution is from the prescription of these drugs. The inaccurate and inadequate knowledge of opioids should be addressed to decrease the opioids epidemic.

# Effects of Opioids on the Body

The use of opioids perceived to be more common in producing the effects such as pleasant, stimulating and enjoyable (*Opioid Misuse and Addiction*). The persistent use of opioids activates and stimulates dopaminergic neurons that results in addiction. Higher doses of opioids are suggested to cause more pleasant effects in individuals. Intake of higher doses produces more liking and stimulating effects in the body. Opioids are strengths in the management of pain and a variety of depression-related illnesses (*Opioid Misuse and Addiction*). Current researches including meta-analyses of anti-depressant's effectiveness and acceptability have been studied and it is evident that these drugs are prescribed most significantly as a pain reliever. Opioid drugs are the chief drugs used in patients with psychological illnesses along with various similar psychotic diseases. The availability and access to these drugs is another significant factor for the misuse and overuse of opioids. It has been observed that the use of opioids is also more prevalent in individuals having psychological illnesses such as schizophrenia and related disorders.

The heterogeneity has been found with persons’ response to antipsychotic and pain management. Researchers were unable to predict reaction which forces them to a trial-and-error approach with management using opioid drugs. Oxycodone is an operative medicine for pain management and other related disorders and is more common in patients for pain relief. There are notable side effects associated with opioids consumption including brain dysfunction and addiction (Cicero and Ellis). However, there is a noteworthy decrease in the extrapyramidal severe effects of opioid drugs. With this decrease and non-availability, the use of second-hand group of opioid drugs has headed the burden of side effects. This upsurges the likelihood of cardiometabolic and nervous system dysfunction. Other than psychological disorders, doctors have suggested further researches to find out the first line opioid drug best appropriate for individuals suffering from pain and psychological disorders (Gottlieb and Woodcock).

# Addiction

A public declaration among individuals and predominantly between psychological specialists is that individuals with psychological and painful diseases use opioids and related drugs as self-medication to relieve pain. They used these drugs to alleviate medical indications and pain for the side effects of the therapies. Roots of the self-medication knowledge among patients is because opioids are very good pain relievers. Researchers have revealed that several patients and individuals using opioid drugs are increasing day by day. The fact is associated with opioid drugs like pain relievers and more commonly used in patients suffering from pain and other psychological diseases (Cicero and Ellis). The answer lies in the statistics that persons with mental health illnesses, used it primarily appealing for self-medication. Additional evidence originated from trials accomplished on animal models inoculated with opioid drugs have recommended that self-medication with these drugs is a believable idea. Presently, the evaluation from different studies have marked a valid point on self-medication theory.

Closer examination of the literature has recommended that opioid drugs are more helpful for individuals having depression and anxiety disorders. They consume these drugs to relieve pain and to alleviate stress. However, the upsurge use of opioid drugs has headed the assumption of the cumulative threat of nervous system dysfunction, cancer and other related diseases accountable for early mortality. The studies have recommended to further examine the consequences for the self-medication insight. This study approaches the opinion for use of opioid drugs in alluring and alleviating the symptoms of pain and stress.

# Solution

Pharmacology, pharmacies, second-hand drug workers and strong pain-relieving effects of opioids had led to the misuse, overuse, and abuse of opioids among individuals (Gottlieb and Woodcock). Access to opioids, availability of second-hand generation medications in the markets, a restricted prescription can significantly reduce the abuse of opioids among communities. Alternative pain relievers can be suggested to be used and prescribed for patients suffering from severe and chronic pain (*Opioid Misuse and Addiction*). Cognitive, stimulating and desire for opioids can only be reduced if the opioids are restricted in the markets, pharmacies and healthcare facilities to reduce the self-medicating activities. Though opioid pharmacology subsidizes to the potential for the opioid drugs to be ill-treated. Certain steps should be taken to decrease potential exploitation including risk valuations of patients susceptible to misuse, abuse-deterrent interpretations, individual and physician health education, and other struggles (Cicero and Ellis). This information can update the opioid dissertation by delivering basic knowledge upon which the legal, and epidemiological factors can be accurately assessed, inferred, and deliberated to reduce the opioid abuse among communities.

# Works Cited

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