



Approaches on treatment of chronic pain in the clinic

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ConMw The use of medicinal cannabis in the treatment of neuropathic pain

Preventing and Tackling the Opioid Epidemic

Conflicts of interest

- 1. ZonMW Grants: TAPTOE, Cannabis project with CHDR
- 2. Strategic collaboration with the FDA (opioid-interaction with antipsychotics and antidepressants; reversal of opioid induced respiratory depression)
- 3. Educational grants from MSD/Merck & Co., Medtronic, Grünenthal, Medasense, Trevena, Indivior, Eurocept, Shell
- 4. Speciality section editor Neuropathic Pain *Frontiers in Pain Research,* Associate editor **Pain**, Associate editor *Anesthesiology*

At LUMC

Head: Marieke Niesters MD PhD PAIN CLINIC

ACUTE PAIN

(perioperative)

Head: Albert Dahan MD PhD
PAIN RESEARCH

Our current clinical approach (chronic noncancer pain)

- Step 1 Triage
- Step 2 Visit to the clinic (45-60 min)
- Step 3 Multidisciplinary consultation
- Step 4 Shared decision making
- Step 5 Treatment (pharmacological, intervention, wait-and-see)
- Step 6 Review and reconsideration

An example

- 45 yr old patient tumor of the jaw
- 1 yr ago surgery: tumor removal (not completely)
- Neuropathic symptoms, phantom sensations pain?
- Step 2 and 3 planned
- Step 4: Diagnosis
- Step 5 Treatment
- Step 6 Review

Pharmacological treatment of chronic noncancer pain

Nociceptive

- Acetaminophen
- NSAIDs
- Tramadol
- Tapentadol (MOR and NRI)
- Neuropathic
 - Antidepressants (SNRIs, SSRIs, TCA)
 - Antiepileptics (pregabalin, gabapentin)
- Mixed (nociceptive and neuropathic)
- Visceral
- Ischemic

Interventional treatment of chronic noncancer pain

- TENS
- Qutenza (capsaicin patch)
- Corticosteroid injection
- PRF (pulsed radiofrequency) and RF
- Neuromodulation
- Surgery

Cancer pain: neurolytic blocks

Phenotypical dependent treatment

Treatment of groups based on phenotype not on underlying disease

- Quantitative sensory testing (QST)
- Cornea confocal microscopy (CCM)
- Questionnaires
- Endogenous pain modulation testing (CPM and OA)

An example of one such strategy

- Allodynia +/- AND
- CPM +/- AND
- OA +/- AND
- Temporal summation: central sensitization +/- AND
- CCM normal/abnormal

Skin biopsy: A δ and C-fibres



Cornea Confocal Microscopy







- Density n/mm²
- Length mm/mm²
- Branching n/mm²

Normal Cornea









Offset Analgesia



Offset Analgesia



Niesters et al. 2016





A novel approach to identify responder subgroups and predictors of response to low- and high-dose capsaicin patches in postherpetic neuralgia

C.H. Martini¹*, A. Yassen²*, A. Krebs-Brown³, P. Passier², M. Stoker⁴, E. Olofsen¹, A. Dahan¹



Cornea nerve fibre state determines analgesic response to tapentadol in fibromyalgia patients without effective endogenous pain modulation



Tapentadol treatment results in long-term pain relief in chronic low back pain patients and associates with reduced segmental sensitization

Tine van de Donk et al. Pain Reports 2020



New pharmacological options

- Cannabis/cannabinoids
- Biased ligands (opioids)
- Enhancement of endogenous pain modulation
- Anti-inflammatory agents (biologicals)
- Benefit harm assessment
- Stimulants/antagonistst to increase dosing

ANESTHESIOLOGY

Benefit and Risk Evaluation of Biased µ-Receptor Agonist Oliceridine *versus* Morphine

Albert Dahan, M.D., Ph.D., C. Jan van Dam, M.D., Marieke Niesters, M.D., Ph.D., Monique van Velzen, Ph.D., Michael J. Fossler, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Mark A. Demitrack, M.D., Erik Olofsen, Ph.D.

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Annals of Palliative Medicine, van Dam et al. 2020

Steps	Action
Step 1	Administer an analgesic to patients or volunteers followed by measurement of analgesic efficacy, toxic (e.g., respiratory depression) responses and plasma drug concentration over time
Step 2	Perform pharmacokinetic-pharmacokinetic analysis of the concentration-effect data to obtain model parameter estimates including inter-individual variances
Step 3	Perform 10,000 simulations for analgesia and toxic effects (in total 20,000 simulations) using parameter estimates and their variability
Step 4	Determine the probability of the occurrence of analgesia (A) and of respiratory depression (RD), based on predefined thresholds, such as: threshold(A) = at least 50% increase in pain tolerance, and threshold(RD) = at least a 50% reduction of isohypercapnic minute ventilation
Step 5	Define your utility and calculate the utility as function of time or as function of biophase concentration. Examples are: utility ₁ = $P(A > 50\%) - P(RD > 50\%)$, cf. <i>Figure 1</i> ; utility ₂ = $P(A \text{ AND NOT RD}) = P(A > 50\% \text{ AND RD } < 50\%)$, cf. <i>Figure 2A</i> ; utility ₃ = $P(RD \text{ AND NOT A}) = P(A < 50\% \text{ AND RD } > 50\%)$, cf. <i>Figure 2B</i>
Step 6	Determine the continuum of probabilities of presence or absence of analgesia in combination with the presence of absence of respiratory depression by varying the threshold values and plot these in 2D, cf. <i>Figure 3</i>

Table 1 Construction of the utility functions and surfaces based on pharmacokinetic-pharmacokinetic modeling studies







Pregabaline effect vs side effects

Time (days)

Olesen et al. JPET 2019

Analgesic Treatment \rightarrow Dosing \rightarrow Effect \rightarrow Adverse Effect \rightarrow Dose reduction \rightarrow Effect \downarrow

Analgesic Treatment \rightarrow Dosing \rightarrow Effect \rightarrow Adverse Effect \rightarrow Dose reduction \rightarrow Effect \downarrow

Analgesic Treatment \rightarrow Dosing \rightarrow Effect \rightarrow Adverse Effect $\downarrow \rightarrow$ Dose increase \rightarrow Effect \uparrow

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A COMPARISON OF AMPHETAMINE SULFATE WITH OTHER STIMULANTS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM IN MORPHINE RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION •

CARROLL A. HANDLEY, PH.D.





Thank you for listening