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# Factors Associated with an Increased Risk of Opioid Misuse Among Patients with Non-Cancer Pain in Malaysian Pain Clinic Settings

[Journal of Psychoactive Drugs](#) • Article • 2025 • DOI: 10.1080/02791072.2024.2387602 [Sani, Asween R.](#)<sup>a,b</sup> ; [Zin, Che Suraya](#)<sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup> Pharmacy Practice Department, Kulliyyah of Pharmacy, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Pahang, Kuantan, Malaysia[Show all information](#)

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## Abstract

This study examined the factors associated with a high risk of opioid misuse among patients receiving opioid treatment for their non-cancer pain in Malaysian pain clinics. The Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients with Pain-Revised (SOAPP-R), a validated instrument for predicting the risk of aberrant drug-related behaviors, were used as a proxy to indicate risk of opioid misuse. Data analysis was stratified into high-risk and low-risk patient groups. Patient factors assessed included pain intensity, pain interference with daily activities, and health-related quality of life. Prescription opioid exposure was examined via patient medical and prescription records review. Among the 61 patients recruited, 62.3% scored  $\geq 18$  on the SOAPP-R, which indicates a high risk for opioid misuse. Factors associated with a high risk of opioid misuse were found to be high level of pain interference with daily activities, poorer mental health, and younger age. High-risk patients were found to be prescribed a lower mean daily opioid dose of  $< 20$  mg/day compared to low-risk

patients (20–49 mg/day). This highlights the need for further research to distinguish aberrant drug-related behaviors due to inadequate pain management from that of actual prescription opioid misuse among non-cancer pain patients attending pain clinics. © 2024 Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

Author keywords

non-cancer pain; Opioid; pain; pain management

Indexed keywords

MeSH

Adult; Age Factors; Aged; Analgesics, Opioid; Female; Humans; Malaysia; Male; Middle Aged; Opioid-Related Disorders; Pain; Pain Clinics; Pain Measurement; Prescription Drug Misuse; Quality of Life; Risk Factors

EMTREE drug terms

buprenorphine; dihydrocodeine; fentanyl; morphine; opiate; oxycodone; narcotic analgesic agent

EMTREE medical terms

adult; anxiety; Article; cancer pain; clinical article; controlled study; drug misuse; drug use; female; high risk patient; human; Malaysian Pain Clinic; male; medical record review; neuropathic pain; outcome assessment; pain clinic; pain intensity; prescription; prevalence; questionnaire; risk assessment; risk factor; visual analog scale; age; aged; drug therapy; epidemiology; Malaysia; middle aged; opioid-related disorder; pain; pain clinic; pain measurement; prescription drug misuse; quality of life; risk factor

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers

Unique identifiers assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) to ensure accurate identification and tracking of chemicals across scientific literature.

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| buprenorphine  | 52485-79-7, 53152-21-9          |
| dihydrocodeine | 125-28-0, 24204-13-5, 5965-13-9 |
| fentanyl       | 437-38-7, 1443-54-5             |
| morphine       | 52-26-6, 57-27-2                |

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| Funding sponsor                                                                       | Funding number | Acronym |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
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### Abstract

Author keywords

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