

What's New 2003?

What new treatments...?

What have you discontinued?

More information please!

What's New 2003?

Submissions = 137

UK = 52 (38%)

Doctors = 60%

Nurses = 25%

Pharmacists = 15%

What's New? 10-20

Drugs & death
rattle

Fentanyl

Gabapentin

Ketamine

Methadone

Oxycodone

Zoledronic acid

Gabapentin Comments

Replacing amitriptyline...

Replacing carbamazepine, sodium valproate?

‘Reasonably successful – excellent’

Fentanyl Comments

Fentanyl lozenge on a stick

Fentanyl sublingually [UK]

Fentanyl patches; ‘difficult to titrate the dose’

Ketamine Comments

For neuropathic pain = 1/2 respondents

Also:

‘Used via epidural catheter’ [UK]

‘Adjunct for mechanical pain’ [USA]

‘Bone pain’ [Australia]

Methadone Comments

Neuropathic pain = 1/2 respondents

Also:

- ‘High dose opioids’ [USA]

- ‘Cheaper than other opioids [USA]

- ‘Alternative to ketamine’ [UK]

But:

- ‘Sometimes used at low dose in addition to other opioids’??

- ‘Cannot be given SC’?? *Yes it can; just need to take precautionary measures to avoid site irritation.*

Oxycodone Comments

‘Replacement for hydromorphone’

‘Opioid rotation [switching]’

Oxynorm capsules 5mg

‘for breakthrough pain = possibly quicker’

‘for people who cannot tolerate taste of morphine solution’

‘*Oxynorm* and *Oxycontin* can → confusion’

What's New? 5-9

Alfentanil

Methylphenidate

Buprenorphine TD

Olanzapine

Hydromorphone

Topical opioids

Macrogols (Movicol)

Alfentanil Comments

[UK]

Renal failure + opioid toxicity

‘Alternative to adding midazolam to SC diamorphine to stop myoclonus’

‘Published conversion factors = accurate’

‘Often need large volumes necessitating a second syringe driver’ *There is a higher strength preparation 5mg/ml available*

Hydromorphone

Comments

[Australia 4; UK 1]

‘More user-friendly doses now available’

‘Especially if high doses needed CSCI’

‘7:1 conversion ratio = OK’

‘Much less expensive than fentanyl’

‘Patient sweating on morphine → much less’

Macrogol (*Movicol*)

Comments

- ‘Kind way of relieving constipation’
- ‘Excellent laxative which is often effective when nothing else has worked’
- ‘Good to have as an alternative for patients who find ... senna too harsh’
- ‘Reduces enema use in treating faecal impaction’

Lidocaine Comments

- ‘Neuropathic pain: 2% 10-20ml/24h CSCI’
= 200-400mg/24h
- ‘Lidoderm patch for muscular & neuropathic pain; effective’ [USA]
- ‘In *Lutrol* gel for painful wounds’

Topical Opioids

- ‘Topical diamorphine for painful fungating nodules *vs topical anaesthetics*’
- ‘Topical opioids for painful malignant ulcers’
- ‘Topical morphine for pain of calciphylaxis in end-stage renal disease; anecdotally effective’ [Canada]

Mucositis: Yet Again!

Gelclair (coating agent)

Hydrocortisone (*Corlan*) 2.5mg lozenge
vs benzydamine

Lidocaine 1% + hydrocortisone

Morphine gel

Methylphenidate

Comments

‘Depression in patients with short prognosis; very successful’

‘Drowsiness’

‘Fatigue’

Olanzapine Comments

‘Restlessness & agitation’

‘Psychosis’

‘Persistent nausea; surprisingly effective’

‘Both PO & rapid-dissolve form’ [Canada]

‘Reservations because of cost’

What's New? 2-4

Clonazepam

COX-2 specific NSAIDs

Gelclair

Granisetron

Lidocaine

Midazolam

Mirtazapine

Octreotide

Sufentanil

Venlafaxine

Clonazepam Comments

‘For neuropathic pain; very effective’

‘Drops for terminal restlessness
vs SC midazolam’ [Australia]

Midazolam Comments

- ‘Buccal administration for seizures and dyspnoea-related anxiety
vs PR diazepam for seizures & injections for anxiety’
- ‘Restless leg syndrome
vs morphine’

Mirtazapine Comments

‘Depression *vs* *SSRIs*; less nausea,
probably quicker effect’

Octreotide Comments

‘In obstruction +/- hyoscine butylbromide
vs nasogastric tube’

Venlafaxine Comments

‘Depression’

‘Neuropathic pain *vs desipramine*;
less adverse effects’

On the Way Out?

Carbamazepine

Cisapride

Cyclizine suppositories

Hydromorphone

MST Continus

Non-Drug Treatments

Acupuncture [Japan, UK, USA]

Aromatherapy [Australia]

Music therapy [Australia]