

Buprenorphine: Everything You Need to Know

Supplemental Annotated Bibliography

compiled by Howard Kornfeld, MD, October 2016

The length of this bibliography is an indication of the intense interest worldwide in buprenorphine as an analgesic.

Between 2005 and 2015 seven major review articles examining the evidence for the efficacy of buprenorphine for chronic pain were published in the medical literature (3, 10, 15, 16, 19, 25, 33, 38).

Three monograph volumes have been published by major science publishing houses (1995, 20015, 2015) on buprenorphine. These volumes present detailed evidence for buprenorphine's role in pain management, as well as addiction (2, 6, 8).

There are published reviews and case histories supporting buprenorphine use in cancer, neuropathic pain, in the elderly, and in complex regional pain syndrome (13, 14, 19, 22, 23, 24, 30, 32, 34, 35).

Opioid-induced hyperalgesia (OIH) is considered one of the most perplexing challenges in the field of pain medicine. Several studies have shown that buprenorphine is associated with a reduction in OIH (7, 12, 29, 37).

Much work, such as longer and more comprehensive studies, and randomized, double-blind trials, needs to be done to better assess buprenorphine in the treatment of pain. The following references offer suggestions towards this goal (4, 5, 21, 26, 27, 28, 36).

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