

Association of opioid exposure before surgery with opioid consumption after surgery: an infographic

Eric S Schwenk ¹, Rajnish K Gupta ², Mark C Bicket ³

SUMMARY

In this retrospective cohort study by Bicket *et al*,¹ the authors studied 26,001 patients from 70 hospitals to determine if an association exists between preoperative opioid exposure and postoperative opioid consumption. Unlike most previous studies that relied on prescriptions filled to quantify postoperative opioid use, this study was able to report on the number of opioid pills actually consumed by patient self-report. Patients were grouped into four categories based on preoperative opioid

exposure: naïve, minimal, intermittent, and chronic. The authors found that the number of postoperative oral morphine equivalents consumed after having elective general or gynecological surgery increased from 31 (naïve) to 36 (minimal) to 48 (intermittent) and finally 63 (chronic). This translated to 4.1, 4.8, 6.4, and 8.4 pills, respectively. Additionally, postoperative opioid refills were greater in patients who used preoperative opioids.

¹Anesthesiology, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

²Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

³Anesthesiology, University of Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Correspondence to Dr Eric S Schwenk, Anesthesiology, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA; prepdrum@gmail.com

Twitter Eric S Schwenk @ESchwenkMD, Rajnish K Gupta @dr_rajgupta and Mark C Bicket @MarkBicket

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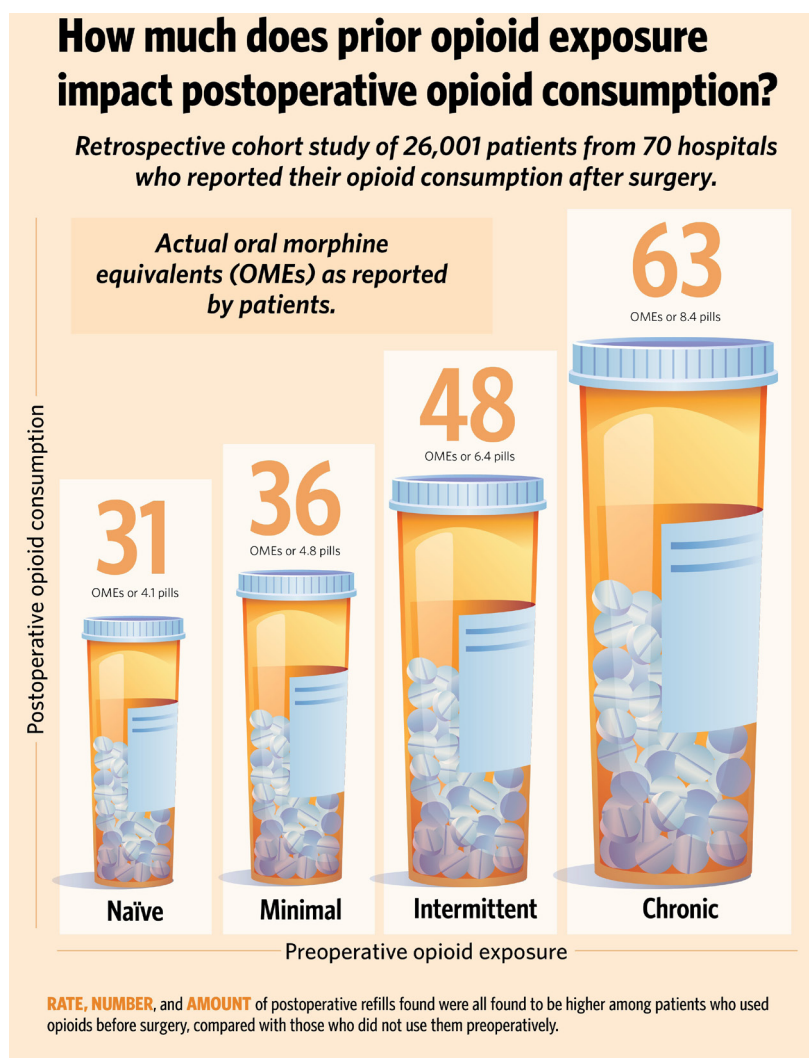
ORCID iDs

Eric S Schwenk <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3464-4149>
Rajnish K Gupta <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3401-4737>

Mark C Bicket <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9406-5953>

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Infographic by Jim Snively

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