Postoperative opioid consumption after spine surgery: 24 hours or midnight to midnight? An infographic

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SUMMARY

While postoperative opioid consumption is commonly reported in pain studies, there is no standard definition of the intervals over which it is reported. In the article by Lam *et al*,¹ the authors found that 43.8% of reported opioid consumption would be missed if postoperative day 1 begins at midnight after surgery. The authors proposed that opioid consumption be measured in 24-hour intervals beginning at anesthesia stop time to allow for consistent comparisons across studies.

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Which opioid outcomes matter?

We don't have a standard definition of postoperative opioid consumption.

24i: Opioid consumption measured in 24-hour intervals after anesthesia stop time.
POD@MN: POD0 is from end of surgery to midnight (MN). Each subsequent POD is MN to MN.

CONCLUSION: We need a standard definition of measurement so we can compare results across studies, particularly in situations where higher opioid doses are used.

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From Lam S, Veselis R, Malhotra V, McCormick P. Postoperative opioid consumption after spine surgery: 24 hours or midnight to midnight? *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2021;Mar 31; rapm-2020-102462. doi:10.1136/rapm-2020-102462