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.

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

REFERENCE