

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

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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.

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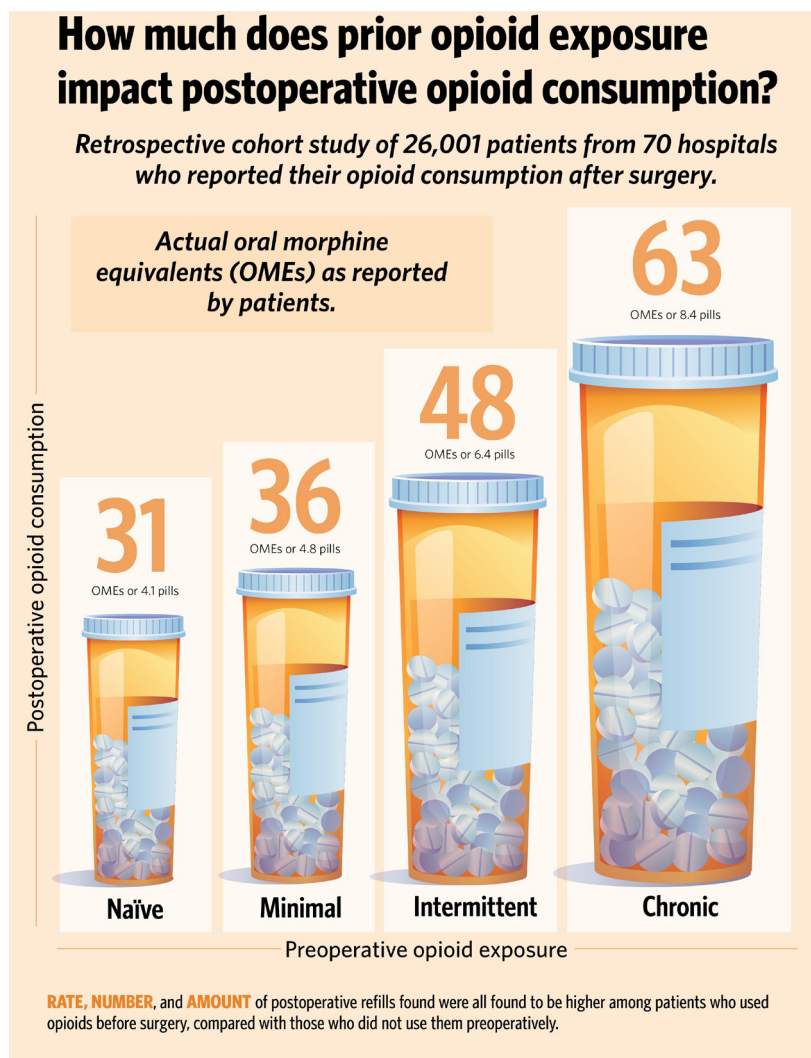
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Infographic by Jim Snively