Patient perceptions of opioids for pain management in the hospital setting: a systematic review

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Background

Opioids are commonly prescribed on hospital discharge but little is known about patient perceptions of opioids in the hospital setting.







Aim

To explore hospital patient perspectives regarding the use of opioids for acute pain in the hospital setting.





Results

The search identified 775 studies

4 studies met the inclusion criteria and were included in the review.

Patients preferred not to use opioids (30-91%)

Patients' primary concerns about opioids were:

- need for opioids if pain level was tolerable
- potential for addiction
- problems with adverse effects

Education on opioids increased patient acceptability of opioids for pain control.









Methods

A systematic review of MEDLINE, EMBASE and CINAHL using the key concepts: hospital; opioids; patient; and perspectives.





Conclusions

Understanding patient preferences is a critical element for providing patient centred care.

Future research to better understand our patients' pain management in the hospital setting is needed to deliver patient centred pain management.