



## OPIOIDS

Definition: A class of analgesic agents including:

- \*Poppy derivatives (ex. opium)
- \*Prescription pain relievers (ex. oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, morphine)
- \* Illegal drugs (ex. heroin)

Importance: Addictive potential and heavy current scrutiny on physician prescribing patterns

Mechanism of action: Through blood stream to receptors on nerve cells in the brain, producing:

- \*Euphoria
- \*Tranquility
- \*Sedation



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Reasons for physician scrutiny:

- \*69 million cases of opioid abuse worldwide (2014 World Health Organization)

- \*Opioid involved deaths nearly quadrupled since 1999 (CDC)

- \*116 opioid overdose deaths daily in US (in 2016 ( HHS)

- \*Patients “share” unused prescriptions and “doctor shop”



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Resources for physicians:

- \*Preoperative pain therapy consults
- \*Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) to collect, monitor, and analyze electronically transmitted prescribing and dispensing data (pharmacies and practitioners)
- \*CDC guideline on pain management
- \*Non-opioid pain regimens (consult literature)
- \*AMA short list of steps every physician can do to prevent opioid abuse
- \*#TurnTheTide Campaign by the Surgeon General



## OPIOIDS REFERENCES

1. [http://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/information-sheet/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/information-sheet/en/)
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6. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>
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