

Chronic Opioid Toxicity Identification & Management in Chronic Opioid Use

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CFPC Col Templates: Slide 1 – used in Faculty presentation only.

Faculty/Presenter Disclosure

- Faculty:

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- Relationships with financial sponsors: **NONE**

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CFPC Col Templates: Slide 2

Disclosure of Financial Support

- **NONE**

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Evaluate patients using opioids long-term and identify clinically relevant signs and symptoms of chronic opioid toxicity, if present.
- Make diagnosis of chronic opioid toxicity and determine the most appropriate approach to its management.
- Explain results of the clinical evaluation to the patient and negotiate further steps using patient-centered approach.

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DESCRIPTION

Chronic opioid use results in a plethora of toxic effects, including neuroendocrine, immune, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal and other dysfunctions.

One example of likely reversible toxicity is the opioid-induced androgen deficiency (OPIAD) affecting up to 80% of patients on long-term opioids. OPIAD requires additional treatment or opioid discontinuation.

Irreversible toxicity includes fractures, advanced neuroendocrine changes, addiction and death.

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IMPORTANCE

- Concept of chronic opioid toxicity is important for primary care clinicians to assure high quality patient care.
- If a decision is made to proceed to long-term opioid therapy, the risks and benefits should be presented to the patient in a balanced way, and an explicit consent should be obtained.
- A screening for predisposing factors and potential chronic opioid toxicity should become a standard of care.
- The toxicity should be managed as soon as identified and regular attempts to taper to the minimal effective dose, choose a safer option, or refer for addiction/dependence therapy should be made.

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Member Interest Groups Section

- **Introducing the Member Interest Groups Section (MIGS) formerly Communities of Family Practice in Family Medicine**
- The Member Interest Groups Section links CFPC members across Canada with similar practice interests. It fosters professional peer connections to explore and address issues impacting family medicine.
- The Member Interest Groups Section is designed to support the College of Family Physicians of Canada's (CFPC's) dedication to providing a professional home for family physicians across a diversity of clinical and non-clinical interests and practice types. Currently the Section is comprised of 19 different member interest groups.
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MiGroups

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- MIGS members are invited to join **MiGroups**, a private, secure online community for family physicians
- MiGroups is used by members to share their experiences with peers, ask clinical questions, promote new practice tools, learn about upcoming events, and more!
- To join, visit <http://cfpc.timedright.com> or scan the QR code. Then, sign up with the email you use to receive CFPC emails



Questions? Contact us at migs@cfpc.ca

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