

A1.3 Is buprenorphine effective for the treatment of opioid dependence?

GRADE evidence profile

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Question: Should buprenorphine maintenance versus placebo be used for opioid addiction?
Patient or population: Opioid dependent
Settings: Outpatient and inpatient
Systematic review: Mattick RP et al. *Buprenorphine maintenance versus placebo or methadone maintenance for opioid dependence* (2008, in press)^{118]}.

| Quality assessment | | | | | | Summary of findings | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------|------------|
| No. studies | Design | Limitations | Consistency | Directness | Other considerations | No of patients | | Effect | | Quality | Importance |
| | | | | | | Buprenorphine | Placebo ⁵ | Relative risk (RR) (95% CI) | Absolute risk (AR) (95% CI) | | |
| Retention in treatment: 2–4 mg buprenorphine versus placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine^{1184, 204, 109, 110]} (objective follow-up: 2–16 weeks^{d)} | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | No important inconsistency | One inpatient study (–1) | None | 141/242 (58%) | 114/245 (47%) | RR 1.24 ^c (1.06 to 1.45) | AR 100/1000 more (30 more to 210 more) | ⊕⊕⊕○ | 7 |
| Morphine positive urines: 2–4 mg buprenorphine versus placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | Inconsistent results between studies (–1) | One inpatient study (–1) | None | 242 | 245 | – | SMD 0.10 ^c (–0.8 to 1.01) | ⊕⊕○○ | 7 |
| Retention in treatment: 8 mg buprenorphine versus placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine^{1184, 204, 109, 110]} (objective follow-up: 2–16 weeks^{d)} | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | No important inconsistency | One inpatient study (–1) | None | 119/218 (54%) | 114/245 (47%) | RR 1.21 ^c (1.02 to 1.44) | 80/1000 more (9 more to 191 more) | ⊕⊕⊕○ | 7 |
| Morphine positive urines: 8 mg buprenorphine versus placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | Inconsistent results between studies (–1) | One inpatient study (–1) | None | 218 | 245 | – | SMD –0.28 ^c (–0.47 to –0.10) | ⊕⊕○○ | 7 |
| Retention in treatment: 16 mg buprenorphine versus 1 mg buprenorphine^{1184, 204, 109, 110]} (objective follow-up: 2–16 weeks^{d)} | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | No important inconsistency | No uncertainty | None | 110/181 (61%) | 74/185 (40%) | RR 1.52 ^c (1.23 to 1.88) | 210/1000 more (90 more to 350 more) | ⊕⊕⊕⊕ | 7 |
| Morphine positive urines: 16 mg buprenorphine versus placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Randomized trials ^b | No limitations | No important inconsistency | No uncertainty | None | 181 | 185 | – | SMD –0.65 ^c (–0.44 to –0.86) | ⊕⊕⊕⊕ | 7 |

^a Two RCTs: one inpatient, one outpatient, both conducted in the United States.

^b Both with unclear allocation concealment.

^c Random effect model.

^d Length of treatment.

^e Placebo or 1 mg buprenorphine daily.