

A prospective observational study in naturalistic settings to describe long-acting injectable buprenorphine introduction in France: the OBAP cohort study

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Aims

Long-acting formulations of buprenorphine (LAB) have been developed with promising perspectives to facilitate long-term acceptance of buprenorphine treatment, reduce misuse and diversion and potentially increase treatment response. OBAP (*Long-Acting buprenorphine Observatory*) is a prospective observational open cohort study started in 2023 in France by the University of Bordeaux (UB), Bordeaux, France. Main objectives are to examine, over a period of 6 months after LAB treatment initiation changes in 1) substance addiction severity; 2) quality of life, craving, opioids and other use and misuse, satisfaction with LAB.

Methods

When a patient is scheduled for LAB treatment, the prescriber sends patient telephone contact to UB. An OBAP Clinical Research Assistant (CRA), contacts the patient to present the study. After consent a baseline interview is scheduled just before first LAB administration and follow-up assessments are scheduled after 1, 2, 3 and 6 months. These interviews are based on standardized validated tools: the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), DSM5 diagnosis, quality of life (EQ-5D-5L, NHP, SF-12), treatment satisfaction (TSQM), and urine specimen.

Results

Between March 1, 2023 and April 18th, 2025, 63 French treatment centers joined the OBAP study and reported 283 LAB initiations. 228 patients were reached by an OBAP CRA and 155 gave consent. Current retention in research at M1, M2, M3 and M6 is 74.6, 56.2, 50.0 and 50.4% respectively. Preliminary analysis showed notably a decrease in Composite Score of the Drug section of the ASI (main outcome) over time: average % decrease in individuals interviewed at M1, M2, M3 was -50.0, -57.1 and -60.7% respectively, compared to M0.

Conclusion

OBAP cohort study may provide a better general understanding of the clinical course and quality of life for individuals with opioid use disorder initiating treatment with LAB. These data will be useful for future clinical practice and public health regulations.

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