

Title: Clinical correlates and treatment outcomes of post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic non-cancer pain among individuals in an Australian opioid treatment program.

Authors:

- A Kendurkar, Senior Staff Specialist, Drug and Alcohol Clinical Services, Hunter New England Local Health District (DACS-HNELHD). email: Arvind.Kendurkar@health.nsw.gov.au
- K L Mills, Professor, The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.
- Matthew Sunderland, Assoc Professor, The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use, The University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.
- Adrian Dunlop Senior Staff Specialist, Hunter New England Local Health District, NSW Health, NSW Australia.
- Dr Chris Hayes, Senior Staff Specialist, Hunter Integrated Pain Services, Hunter New England Local Health District, NSW Health, NSW Australia.

Abstract:

Introduction/Objectives:

There is increasing but indirect evidence suggesting that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may play a role in the development of both chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) and opioid dependence (OD) independently. This study aims to examine the impact of PTSD on the clinical profile of individuals with CNCP and OD in the opioid dependence treatment program (ODT) setting and investigate potential moderators of this association.

Methods:

One hundred-and fifty (mean age of 47 years; 71.3% male) people enrolled in ODT, experiencing CNCP for more than 6 months were recruited from a regional Local Health District within New South Wales, Australia. Demographic and clinical correlates were assessed via a structured interview. Appropriate statistical analyses were conducted to present the results ($p < 0.05$).

Results:

Forty-six percent of the sample met criteria for PTSD. Participants with PTSD scored significantly lower on all physical, mental, and social parameters of CNCP on PROMIS-29 and on psychological and overall quality of life parameters of ATOP, compared to those without PTSD (on t-test for comparison of means and chi-squared test for

comparison of proportions). PTSD severity had direct correlation with various physical, mental, and social domains of PROMIS-29. Females with PTSD were found to be significantly associated with the pain related disability than the men with PTSD.

Conclusion:

PTSD is prevalent among individuals with CNCP receiving ODT. The presence of PTSD negatively effects the physical and mental health correlates of individuals with CNCP and OD, and the impact can be directly correlated with the severity of the PTSD.

Keywords:

chronic pain, opioids, post-traumatic-stress- disorder, complex PTSD, opioid dependence treatment

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors have no conflict of interest for this manuscript.