

Drug Class Review

Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics

Final Update 6 Report

July 2011



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Update 5: April 2008
Update 4: April 2006
Update 3: April 2005
Update 2: April 2004
Update 1: September 2003
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Table 4: Comparative safety of long-acting and short-acting opioids

Number of studies; Number of subjects	Domains pertaining to strength of evidence			Magnitude of effect		Strength of evidence High, moderate, low, insufficient
	Risk of bias (design/quality)	Consistency	Directness	Precision	Summary effect size (95% CI)	
<i>Long-acting oxycodone vs. short-acting oxycodone: Specific adverse events</i>						
3; 211	Fair RCTs	Consistent	Direct	Imprecise	Not able to pool data due to heterogeneity among studies No trends favoring one formulation over the other for the outcomes of dizziness, somnolence, vomiting, and constipation	Moderate
<i>Other comparisons: Specific adverse events</i>						
4	Fair RCTs	Unable to determine	Direct	Imprecise	Studies did not compare equipotent doses; Quality of methods of adverse event assessment was low	Insufficient

Abbreviations: RCT, randomized controlled trial.