

Satisfaction of patients with opioid use disorder treated with sustained-release buprenorphine in an outpatient addiction center in Barcelona

Nayach M¹, Garcia Guix A¹, Llana S¹, Oviedo L¹, Oliva L¹, Fernández J¹, Jornet V¹, Cañadas Z¹, López E¹, Carreras R²

¹Centres Assistencials Dr. Emili Mira, Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addiccions (INAD), Santa Coloma de Gramenet.

²Head of community process, Institut de Neuropsiquiatria i Addiccions- INAD, Barcelona.

BACKGROUND

Methadone and buprenorphine are the treatments of choice in our country for opioid use disorder (OUD). Recently, the use of sustained-release buprenorphine (SRB), which is administered subcutaneously (weekly or monthly) has been approved, becoming an alternative for OUD patients seeking treatment in drug addiction centers.

AIMS AND METHODS

To explore OUD patients satisfaction who have started treatment with SRB using the TSQM questionnaire between October and December 2022 (**Table 1**).

Table1: TSQM Questionnaire

Questions	
1 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the ability of the medication to prevent or treat your condition?	Effectiveness
2 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the medication relieves your symptoms?	
3 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the amount of time it takes the medication to start working?	
4 As a result of taking this medication, do you experience any side effects at all?	Adverse reactions
5 How bothersome are the side effects of the medication you take to treat your condition?	
6 To what extent do the side effects interfere with your physical health and ability to function (i.e., strength, energy levels, etc.)?	
7 To what extent do the side effects interfere with your mental function (i.e., ability to think clearly, stay awake, etc.)?	
8 To what degree have medication side effects affected your overall satisfaction with the medication?	Convenience
9 How easy or difficult is it to use the medication in its current form?	
10 How easy or difficult is it to plan when you will use the medication each time?	
11 How convenient or inconvenient is it to take the medication as instructed?	Global satisfaction
12 Overall, how confident are you that taking this medication is a good thing for you?	
13 How certain are you that the good things about your medication outweigh the bad things?	
14 Taking all things into account, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with this medication?	

RESULTS

At the end of December 2022, 3 OUD users were undergoing treatment with weekly injectable buprenorphine. Previously they were receiving treatment with buprenorphine/naloxone. There are two men and one woman and the average age is 43 years; two of them present Dual Diagnosis. Two of them have been on treatment for two months and one of them for three months. Since they began treatment, two of the three patients have had negative urine controls for opioids (**Table 2**).

The results for each of the categories into which the TSQM version 1.4 questionnaire is divided are as follows: Regarding effectiveness the mean response was $16 \pm 3,5$; in Adverse reactions the mean was $10,3 \pm 9,3$; in Convenience the mean was $19,7 \pm 2,3$ and in Global satisfaction the mean was $12,7 \pm 2,3$. The maximum score in each of the 4 categories is 21 points (**Graphic 1**).

Table 2. Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients with OUD treated with sustained-release buprenorphine in an outpatient addiction center in Barcelona.

		%
Gender	Male	66,6
	Female	33,3
Mean age (SD)		43,3 (12,03)
Marital status	Single	100
Employment situation	Not working	100
Incomes	With incomes	66,6
	Without incomes	33,3
OUD treatment outcomes*	Good outcomes	66,6
	Bad outcomes	33,3
Previous treatment	Buprenorphine/naloxone	100
Dual diagnosis		66,6
Main drug	Heroin	33,3
	Cocaine	66,6
Route of administration	Inhaled	100

* based in urine controls in the last 6 months

CONCLUSIONS

Satisfaction with SRB treatment appears to be high. This suggests that this formulation may be especially suitable in those patients who have difficulty taking the drug daily and may improve retention on treatment.

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Graphic 1. Results TSQM questionnaire

