

Appendix 4D: Characteristics of randomized trials comparing opioids with other analgesics that were included in the meta-analysis

Study report	Study population, n (withdrawals)	Intervention and dosage	End points and outcomes
Gobel 1995, Germany Parallel Quality: 1	Postherpetic neuralgia 35 (14)	Tramadol 200-600 mg/d for 6 wk Control group: clomipramine 50-100 mg/d ± levomepromazine 25-50 mg/d	Primary: pain intensity* (5-point verbal rating scale) Secondary: psychological and physical condition Results: see Appendix 10
Pavelka 1998, Czech Republic Crossoverdesign Quality: 5	Osteoarthritis of hip and knee 60 (6)	Tramadol 150-300 mg/d for 4 wk Controls: diclofenac 75-150 mg/d	Primary: WOMAC index (pain,* stiffness and physical disability*) Secondary: drug preference Results: see Appendixes 10 and 12
Parr 1989, USA Parallel Quality: 3	Pain in 2 joints 846 (213)	Dextropropoxyphene 1080 mg/d + acetaminophen 1950 mg/d for 4 wk Controls: SR diclofenac 100 mg/d	Primary: pain intensity* (100-mm VAS) Secondary: NHP* Results: see Appendixes 10 and 12
Salzman and Brobyn 1989, USA Parallel Quality: 3	Osteoarthritis 57 (11 at 1 wk) in Salzman's group and 57 (7 at 1 wk) in Brobyn's	Propoxyphene 260 mg/d for 24 wk Controls: suprofen 800 mg/d	Primary: pain intensity* (5-point numerical scale) Secondary: pain relief, global improvement Results: see Appendix 10
Glowinski 1999, France Parallel Quality: 3	Rheumatoid arthritis 60 (2)	Codeine 90 mg/d + acetaminophen 1500 mg/d for 1 wk	Primary: global efficacy (5-point verbal scale) Secondary: pain intensity* (100-mm VAS), impairment of activity (4-point scale), duration of morning stiffness, no. of awakenings Results: see Appendix 10
Kjaersgaard-Andersen 1990, Denmark Parallel Quality: 3	Osteoarthritis of hip 161 (64)	Codeine 180 mg/d + acetaminophen 3000 mg/d for 4 wk Controls: acetaminophen 3 g/d Rescue medication: ibuprofen tablets 400 mg	Primary: daily intake of rescue medication Secondary: daily and weekly hip pain Results: at 7 days, the addition of codeine was better than acetaminophen alone; after this, the difference was statistically nonsignificant
Jamison 1998, USA Parallel Quality: 2	Back pain 36 (3)	A) Oxycodone + morphine SR 90 mg/d for 16 wk* B) Oxycodone SR 40 mg/d for 16 wk Controls: naproxen 1 g/d	Primary: pain intensity* (0-100 scale) Secondary: mood, level of activity (no. of hours), amount of study medication Results: see Appendix 10
Vlok 1987, Union of South Africa Crossover design Quality: 4	Osteoarthritis 31 (3)	Codeine 20 mg/d + ibuprofen 400 mg/d + acetaminophen 500 mg/d for 4 wk Controls: Ibuprofen 1200 mg/d	Primary: pain intensity (VAS) Secondary: PAD, drug choice Results: combination was better than ibuprofen alone
Raja 2002, USA Crossover design Quality: 4	Postherpetic neuralgia 76 (32)	CR morphine up to 240 mg/d for 6 wk† Controls: nortriptyline up to 160 mg/d‡	Primary: pain intensity* (0-10 NRS) Secondary: pain relief, cognitive function, MPI* (physical functioning subscale), sleep, mood, global preference Results: see Appendixes 10 and 12

Note: Studies are ordered according to the opioids investigated, from weaker to stronger. WOMAC = Western Ontario and Mc Master Universities Osteoarthritis Index, VAS = visual analog scale, NHP = Nottingham Health Profile, PAD = Pain Analogue Difference, NRS = numeric rating scale, MPI = Multidimensional Pain Inventory.

*Data used in the meta-analysis.

†Methadone was an alternative opioid.

‡Desipramine was an alternative antidepressant.

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