

DRUG USE SEVERITY PREDICTS SUBSEQUENT BUPRENORPHINE-REPLACEMENT TREATMENT COMPLIANCE AND DRUG USE BEHAVIOR AMONG OPIOID-DEPENDENT PATIENTS

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Background/Objective

Compliance with buprenorphine medication assisted therapy (B-MAT) drives early treatment outcomes among opioid-dependent (OD) patients. This study examines the relationship between patient behavior, participation in a compliance program, and 3 month tx compliance.

Methods

Treatment (B-MAT) seeking patients (N=898), were randomly assigned to the intervention group (B-MAT plus program) or control group B-MAT as usual. Measures included the Addiction Severity Index and Treatment Services Review collected at baseline, 3 and 6 months. 3 month compliance was regressed onto group, baseline behaviors related to compliance, and the interaction term.

Results

3 month data were available at time of writing. Main Effects: Medication compliance at 3 months is related to group (chi square = 16.3, $p < .01$) heroin use (7.1 days vs. 3.8 days; $F(1, 894) = 14.72$, $p < .001$), barbiturate use (2.8 days vs. 1.1 days; $F(1, 895) = 13.10$, $p < .001$), and opiate use (7.6 days vs. 6.6 days; $F(1, 893) = 4.46$, $p < .05$). Interaction Effects: Medication non-compliant controls used barbiturates ($F(1, 895) = 3.96$, $p < .05$) on more days compared to all other groups.

Conclusions

Opioid and barbiturate use at baseline is related to compliance with B-MAT @ three months. However, the interaction term indicates that baseline drug use is more strongly related to non-compliance with B-MAT among control patients suggesting that the program may reduce the influence of baseline drug severity on B-MAT compliance.

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