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Novelties in therapeutic with opioids



"Total Pain"

St. Christopher Hospice 1967

WHO Expert Meeting 1982





J.J Bonica,

K.M. Foley,

A.Rane,

M. Swerdlow,

R. Twycross,

V. Ventafridda,

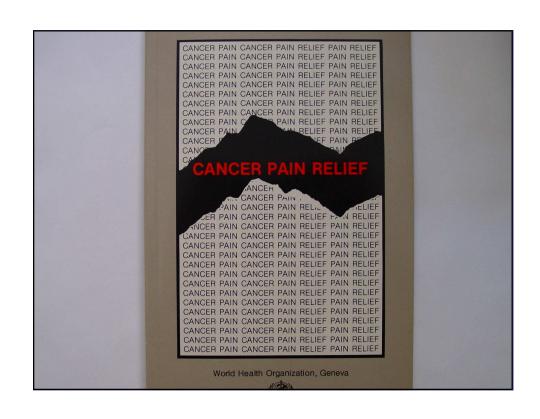
J. Birkham,

P.B. Desai,

M. Martelete,

F. Takeda,

R. Tiffany



WHO's Pain Ladder

- Assessment and Examination
- Diagnosis of pain (nociceptive/neuropathic)
- "by the mouth" (keep it simple)
- "by the clock"
- "by the step"
- Choice of drug
- Route of administration
- Dose titration
- Prophylaxis and treatment of side effects



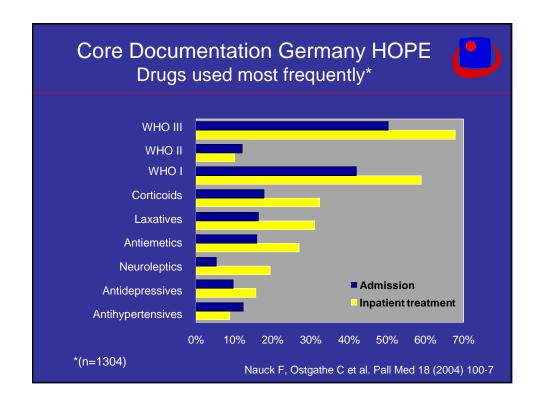
Novelties in therapeutic with opioids

"Pain relief in cancer is largely a solved problem...."



Eric Wilkes, 1985

Critical Symptoms in Palliative Care*					
<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Frequency</u>				
Pain	82%				
Anxiety	28%				
Dyspnoea, breathlessness	20%				
Depression	20%				
Vomiting	12%				
Disorientation, confusion	11%				
Constipation	9%				
*n = 1,304 Radbruch L, Nauck F et a	al. Support Care Cancer. 2003;11:442-451.				



EAPC Survey: Morphine Use by Country

Country	Oral NR No (%) pts	Oral SR No (%) pts	Parenteral No (%) pts	
Austria	3 (5)	6 (10)	20 (34)	
Belgium	8 (7)	8 (7)	14 (13)	
Finland	7 (5)	21 (15)	4 (3)	
France	36 (23)	34 (21)	39 (24)	
Germany	25 (25)	26 (26)	20 (20)	
UK	172 (22)	132 (17)	4 (0.5)	
Italy	4 (2)	45 (17)	33 (12)	
Spain	21 (11)	32 (16)	25 (13)	
Sweden	18 (11)	33 (20)	25 (15)	
Total	520 (17)	561 (19)	302 (10)	

*Selected countries NR = Normal release; SR = Sustained release

Klepstad P, et al. Palliat Med. 2005;19:477-484.

EAPC Survey: Conclusions



- One-third of the patients had clinically significant pain
- Large variation exist across countries in the use of both opioids and non-opioids
- The intensity of pain was distributed relatively evenly across participating countries
- For patients using morphine, only a minority needed high doses

Klepstad P, et al. Palliat Med. 2005;19:477-484.

Opioids and Opioid Receptors

- Opioids function by binding and activating their receptors
- These receptors are present in both the CNS and in the peripheral nervous system





Sternini C, et al. Neurogastroenterol Motil. 2004;16 (Suppl 2):3-16.

"side effects of opioids are usually minimal"



S. M. Tempest, Meyler's side effects of drugs

Chronic Opioids and Their Effects

- The chronic use of opioids is justified if the balance between analgesia and side effects favors analgesia
- It is essential that side effects are acceptable to the patient and that they do not alter the patient's quality of life
- Sedation, nausea, and constipation can limit opioid use

Coluzzi F, et al. Minerva Anestesiol. 2005;71:425-433.

Strategies to treat side effects of opioids

- Dose reduction
- Adding an adjuvant analgesic
- Treating side effects
- Use non-pharmacological treatments
- Complementary and alternatively medicine
- Opioid rotation
- Antagonists

"Persistent pain is a major public health problem, accounting for untold suffering and lost productivity around the world..."



WHO. The World Health Report (2001)

Novelties in therapeutic with opioids Too many choices?

How many opioids do we need?

MORPHINE

• FENTANYL

OXYCODONE

OXYMORPHONE

HYDROMORPHONE

METHADONE

Which Opioids...?

- Although various types of opioid are in clinical use
 - Mixed μ-agonist/antagonists (e.g., butorphanol)
 - Partial μ-agonists (e.g., buprenorphine)
 - Weak μ-agonists (e.g., codeine, hydrocodone, propoxyphene)
 - Potent μ-agonists (e.g., morphine, methadone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, fentanyl, sufentanil)
 - ...only the latter are widely used in palliative care in situations where unmet clinical need calls for the investigation of new routes of delivery

Alternative Routes of Opioid Administration

- Many routes of administration for potent opioids have been in use for a long time, and are widely accepted as 'established'
 - Oral
 - Intravenous
 - Subcutaneous
 - Intramuscular
 - Rectal
 - Intraspinal / epidural
 - Transdermal patch

Novelties in therapeutic with opioids?

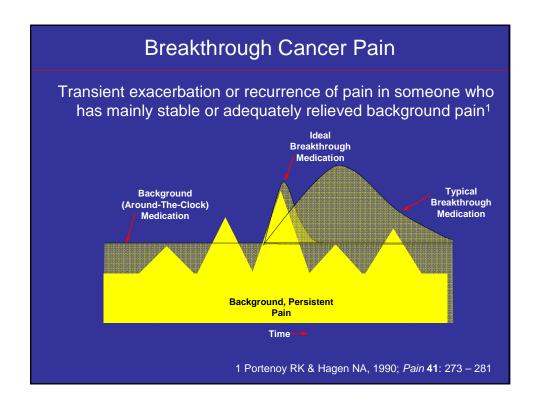
1 Alexander-Williams JM & Rowbotham DJ. Br J Anaesth 1998; 81: 3 - 7

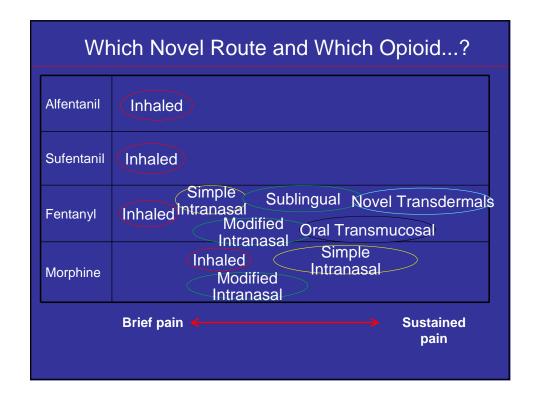
Novel Routes of Opioid Administration

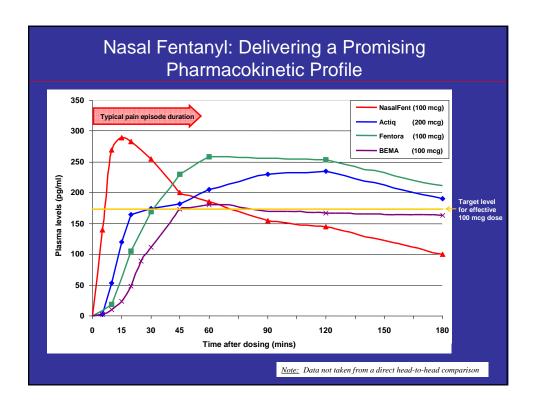
- Novel routes of administration that have been explored include
 - Oral Transmucosal
 - Sublingual
 - Intranasal
 - Inhaled
 - Iontophoretic Transdermal
 - Metered Dose Transdermal Spray
- But what are they trying to achieve...?

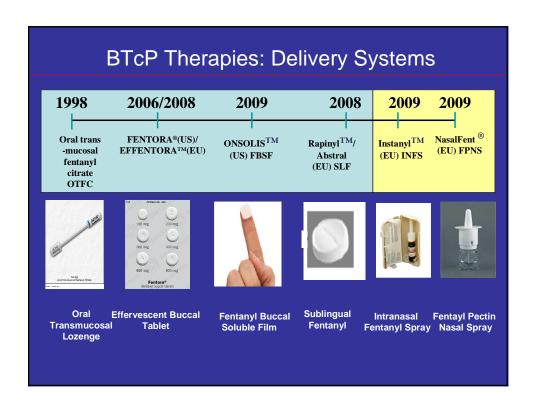
Modifying Formulations Offer Great Potential

- The idea of using delivery-modifying formulations to optimise intranasal opioids is not new
- For a rapidly absorbed drug such as fentanyl, modulating absorption may better match the time course of the 'typical' breakthrough pain episode
- Conversely, for a poorly absorbed drug like morphine, improving absorption may make it more useful for the control of more predictable, but more chronic pain





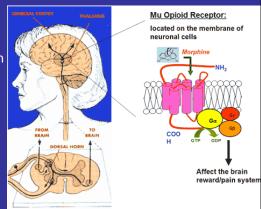




Fentanyl: Overview

A Nearly 40-Year History of Analgesic Efficacy

- Mu-opioid receptor agonist ¹
 - Brain, spinal cord, smooth muscle
 - Analgesia, sedation, respiratory depression, euphoria
- Estimated potency of 80 to 100 times that of morphine ²



1. Anderson R et al. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2001;21:397-400. 2. Pereira J et al. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2001;22:672-687.

BTcP Therapies: Early Absorption parameters

	Actiq	Effentora	Onsolis	Abstral	Instanyl	Nasalfent
Dose (mcg)	400 100- 1600	400 100- 800	400 100- 1200	400 100- 800	400 50- 200	400 100-800
Dwell Time (min)	15	15-20			N/A	N/A
Cmax (ng/mL)	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	2.5	1.5
Tmax (min)	120 (30– 240)	45 (20– 240)	60 -	- (23– 240)	15 (6-90)	20 (5-90)

Factors Influencing Choice of Opioid and Route

- The patient's pain
 - Severity
 - Duration
 - Speed of onset
 - Opioid responsiveness
- The patient's circumstances
 - Side effect experience / prior opioid exposure
 - Ease of administration / Level of clinical support
 - Patient preference

Novelties in therapeutic with opioids

original article

Annals of Oncology 21: 615–626, 2010 doi:10.1093/annonc/mdp581

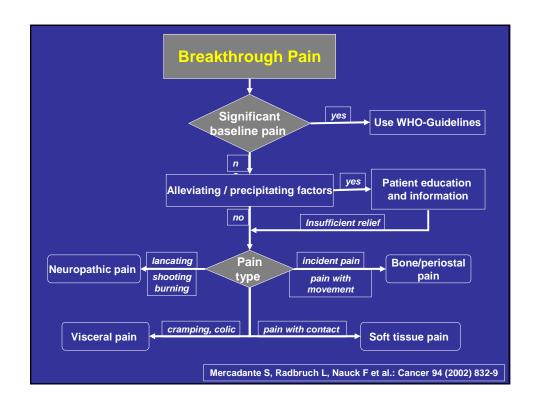
Formulary availability and regulatory barriers to accessibility of opioids for cancer pain in Europe: a report from the ESMO/EAPC Opioid Policy Initiative

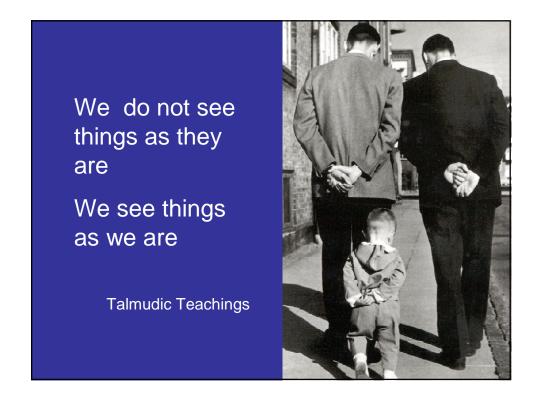
N. I. Cherny^{1,2,3*}, J. Baselga^{4,5}, F. de Conno⁶ & L. Radbruch^{6,7}

¹Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine Unit, Department of Oncology, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel; ²European Society for Medical Oncology; ³Palliative Care Working Group; ⁴Medical Oncology; Sentoe, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain; ⁶European Society for Medical Oncology; ⁶European Association for Palliative Care and ⁷Palliative Medicine, Aachen University, Aachen, Germany

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Exceptions included the exclusion of oral immediate release morphine in Turkey; exclusion of immediate release oxycodone in Portugal, Greece, Belgium and Turkey and exclusion of oral methadone in Portugal, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.





Take home message

 End-of-life care has become an issue of great clinical and public health importance, with a growing population of the elderly, and the increasingly chronic nature of death¹



 Therapeutic priorities will change towards the end of life, focusing on a patient's expectations and wishes, as death is an expected and accepted outcome²

> 1. Van den Block L, et al. Arch Intern Med. 2008;168:1747-1754. 2. Nauck F, et al. *Lancet Oncol.* 2008;9:1086-1091.