

Review of: "Methadone In Chronic Non-Oncological Pain: From Disassuefaction Of Painkillers Abuse To The Primary Management Of Opioid Hyperalgesia"

Aleksandrina Skvortsova¹

1 Leiden University

Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

The topic of the manuscript is interesting and the authors raise several important questions: benefits of methadone for pain treatment and also its dangers. However, the manuscript is very poorly written and does not provide enough depth and covers the topic only superficially. Here are the main concerns:

- 1. The t Conclusion/discussion section in the Abstract is very vague and doesn't give any information.
- 2. The structure of the article is strange. This is not an original study, neither it is a systematic review. I don't see why the authors should have the Methods section separate and so short. The methods should either be significantly expanded and resemble methods from a systematic review. Or Methods can completely be omitted and the structure the article should be split into the topics discussed. Apart from the Methods, the general structure is very confusing: the information about the misuse comes together in the same paragraph with pharmacokinetic properties etc. It is very hard to read and understand.
- 3. There are a lot of grammar mistakes (for example, "as long as the craving does not will be controlled"). Some sentences are cut and make no sense (for example: "The differences individual in the pharmacokinetics of the drug, in association with too rapid titration (fractionation) of the daily dose during the induction phase, are the main factors that can favor the development of intoxication and respiratory depression.because 30 mg of MTD can cause fatal respiratory depression in non-tolerant subjects, in the induction phases the MTD in the first day should not exceed 30 mg / die."). It looks like the authors were copy-pasting some sections without checking what they have written.
- 4. The strong statement "MTD appears to be the most effective opioid drug in control craving and pain" is not backed up by any evidence. Are there any studies confirming that?
- 5. The authors should not use such stigmatizing words as "addicts"
- 6. The authors state that main benefits of methadone is that it causes limited tolerance and decreases opioid induced hyperalgesia. However, they do not give much evidence for neither of these points. Are there any RCTs? Are there any animal studies on this topic.

I recommend against publishing of this manuscript unless it is significantly expanded, structure is improved, and English grammar is corrected.