Clinical Challenges & Co-occurring Conditions

SESSION 3
OBJECTIVES

- Identify psychosocial factors that impact OUD treatment
- Develop strategies to address impactful psychosocial factors
- Identify co-occurring medical conditions that impact OUD treatment (pain, mental health diagnosis)
- Develop strategies to address impactful co-occurring conditions
WHAT IS YOUR MOST CHALLENGING “COMPLICATION” OF TREATING PATIENTS WITH BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER?

- On-going illicit use of opioids
- Other illicit drug use
- Co-occurring psych disorders
- Chronic pain
- Social chaos
- No-shows/early refills
- Diversion
- Others?
20-year-old male presents for treatment of his opioid use disorder. He has been diagnosed with Bipolar II and is currently in college. He is living with friends. Drug of choice is heroin.

- Urine drug screen: + opioids, cannabis
- Meds: Quetiapine 600mg qhs, Gabapentin 600mg tid
- PMH: Bipolar II

Is this a high risk patient for drop-out? Why?
Should he be started on Bup-Nal for OUD? Why?
CASE #3: POSSIBLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Refer for evaluation of his bipolar disorder before treatment to make sure he is stable
- Refer this patient to a higher level of care because he is not going to succeed in clinic-based treatment
- Wait for this patient’s urine to be free of cannabis
- Start induction when he is ready
FACTORS THAT CAN IMPACT RETENTION IN BUPRENORPHINE MAT

• Early Treatment
  – Polysubstance use
  – Access (lack of access can also promote diversion)

• Ongoing Treatment
  – Male gender (?)
  – Employment(?)
  – Race (Black and Hispanic) (?)
  – Age (18-25)
  – Family support (?)
  – Psychiatric problems (?)

What Are Some Tools You Use To Improve Engagement For Patients at Risk Of Dropping Out?
POTENTIAL TOOLS TO IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT

- Medication dose adjustment
- Frequency of visits
- Change psychosocial intervention
- Treatment change
- Increase flexibility in treatment demands
- Involve family sooner
- Consider residential treatment first
Co-Occurring Disorders in Drug Treatment Centers

1.3 million substance abuse admissions

One-third diagnosed with another mental disorder

- Abusing one drug: 35.1%
- Abusing two drugs: 35.2%
- Abusing three or more drugs: 29.3%

Source: SAMHSA 2012 TEDS Report

MentalHelp.net
40-year-old female with OUD and difficulties keeping a job.

HPI: The patient has been in on Bup-Nal for four months, and continues to have positive drug screens for methamphetamine. She states that she uses it to help her with her job as a waitress because she has had long-standing problems with concentration and focus. She has not used opioids for the past 3 months.
CASE # 4:
POSSIBLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

• Refer this patient to an IOP
• Have her come for weekly check-ins
• Reduce the dose, to let her know she needs to stop and you are taking this seriously
• Screen her for a psychiatric disorder
CO-OCCURRING PSYCH DISORDERS

• These are common
  – Lifetime rate of 47%
  – Current rates from 39-70%
  – Depression, anxiety, personality disorders

• They *will* impact treatment success

Savant et al, 2013; Brooner et al, 1997; Rounsaville et al, 1982
NEXT STEPS

• Screen for psychiatric disorders
  – Depression: PHQ-9
  – Anxiety: GAD-7
  – PTSD: PC-PTSD
  – ADHD: ASRS

• Treat their psychiatric disorder
  – Continue to treat opioid use disorder (will help mood)
  – Psychopharm (wait a week after induction?)
  – Therapy
  – Enroll in collaborative care

Savant et al, 2013; Prins et al, 2003
TREATING ADHD IN SUDS

• ADHD should be treated

• Treatment Options
  – CBT for ADHD
  – Pharmacotherapy
    • Bupropion (if you are not 100% sure of dx)
    • Atomoxetine
    • Long-acting methylphenidate preparations
    • Vyvanse
ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN
CC: 30-year-old male on 16-8mg of Bup-Nal for OUD

HPI: Patient calls your clinic because he is at home after accidentally getting the tips of his 3rd and 4th digit caught in the timing belt of his car, resulting in losing the tips of his fingers. He is post-op and back at home and this nerve block is wearing off. He is asking for some help for pain relief.

What can you suggest to help treat his pain?
CASE # 5: POSSIBLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Send him to the ED, because he must be in a monitored bed to have his pain appropriately treated
- Call him in for a nerve block
- Recommend he use a combination of Acetaminophen and an NSAID
- Prescribe him Tramadol to take PRN
- Increase his dose of buprenorphine-naloxone
ACUTE PAIN TREATMENT ON BUPRENORPHINE

• Treatment options
  – Use non-opioid pain medications
    • Acetaminophen
    • NSAIDs
  – Temporarily increase the dose
    • Split the dose?
  – In the hospital?
    • Switch to full agonist
CC: 57-year-old male with chronic abdominal pain.

HPI: About 2 months ago, he was started on buprenorphine-naloxone for an OUD, after he was found to be running out of his oxycodone early and buying more illicitly from a friend. He was successfully transferred onto Bup-Nal 16-6mg qd. He describes his pain as persisting which causes his anxiety to get worse. He is requesting lorazepam.
CASE # 6: POSSIBLE TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Refer him to physical therapy
- Start Clonazepam for his anxiety, which should help his pain indirectly
- Screen him for PTSD
- Increase his dose of Bup-Nal
59-75% have at least one co-occurring psychiatric disorder

Most common psychiatric diagnoses
- Depression: 50%-67%
- Anxiety: 36%
- Somatoform disorder: 20.4%
- Substance Use disorder: 16.6%

Sleep disorders are common (50-90%)

THE PAIN & DEPRESSION CONNECTION

• Common pathways
  – Atrophy of the hippocampus, activation of limbic area
  – Disruption of HPA axis → Inc cortisol
  – Decreased Brain-derived neurotrophic factor
  – Pro-inflammatory cytokines

• Implications
  – Worse quality of life and greater somatic symptom severity
  – Less likely to have complete remission of symptoms
  – Sleep disruption

PAIN AND PTSD: HIGHLY CO-OCCURRING

- Up to 2/3 in some US Veteran study populations

- Shared pathways
  - Mutual maintenance model
  - Shared vulnerability
  - PTSD associated changes in HPA axis affecting
  - Sympatho-adrenal medullary axis

- Pain mediates relations between re-experiencing, avoidance, and arousal symptoms
  - Both worsen each other

Gros et al, 2015
Chronic pain and psychiatric conditions are common

- Depression: PHQ-9
- Anxiety: GAD-7
- PTSD: the PCL (PTSD checklist “PCL-C” is for civilians)
3-48% overall prevalence of SUD in chronic non-cancer pain patients (CNCP)
- Highest rates: those visiting EDs for opioid refills
  - 74% lifetime
- Patient medically compromised
  - 48% of inpts with severe pain

CNCP and SUD patient characteristics vs CNCP patients
- May see more prescription med misuse
- Will be prescribed opioids more often & at higher doses
- Higher alcohol/drug craving
- Higher the pain → increase risk of relapse
- SUD treatment response is similar to CNCP pts without SUD

N=136 treatment seeking pts with both PTSD & Substance Use Disorders

- Avg age 41; Male: 89.6%

Results

- 80% diagnosed with PTSD with severe symptoms
- 82.2% diagnosed with alcohol dependence
  - 39.2% endorsed current substance dependence
  - Higher pain symptoms → higher PTSD symptoms
- No relationship found between pain on substance use
PAIN AND OPIOID USE DISORDERS TX

• CNCP prevalence in medication-assisted treatments: 31-67%

• Chronic pain and medicated-assisted treatment outcomes
  – CNCP NOT associated with prescription drug misuse or illicit drug misuse
  – CNCP associated with depression/anxiety at follow-up (OR 1.721)

Chronic pain & mental disorder & addiction are often co-occurring

Addiction will often complicate pain issues

Medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders in chronic pain needs to be considered
• What if?
  – “Doc, I would like to try medical marijuana.”

• Or, more likely.
  – “Doc, I am trying medical marijuana.”
• Strongest evidence for use of cannabis:
  – N/V associated with chemotherapy
  – Appetite stimulation in wasting illnesses
  – Chronic pain, neuropathic pain, & spasticity due to MS

• No evidence for use in any psychiatric disorder and can worsen the course of some

• No significant evidence it is helpful in SUDs

• Need to be aware of the risks of use
# ADVERSE EFFECTS OF SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM OR HEAVY USE OF MARIJUANA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Adverse Effects of Short-Term Use and Long-Term or Heavy Use of Marijuana.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effects of short-term use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impaired short-term memory, making it difficult to learn and to retain information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impaired motor coordination, interfering with driving skills and increasing the risk of injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altered judgment, increasing the risk of sexual behaviors that facilitate the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In high doses, paranoia and psychosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effects of long-term or heavy use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction (in about 9% of users overall, 17% of those who begin use in adolescence, and 25 to 50% of those who are daily users)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altered brain development*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor educational outcome, with increased likelihood of dropping out of school*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive impairment, with lower IQ among those who were frequent users during adolescence*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diminished life satisfaction and achievement (determined on the basis of subjective and objective measures as compared with such ratings in the general population)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms of chronic bronchitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased risk of chronic psychosis disorders (including schizophrenia) in persons with a predisposition to such disorders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The effect is strongly associated with initial marijuana use early in adolescence.
CASE # 6:  
57 YO MALE WITH ABD PAIN, OUD, & ANXIETY

• What if?  
  – You would like to start an antidepressant for his anxiety, is it safe?

Will this antidepressant make it worse?

Increased risk of SI
• Addiction  
• Chronic Pain  
• Depression
No clear evidence for increased risk, but data is scarce
Monitor young adult 18-25, as is typically indicated
All classes of antidepressants are equal in this area
Watch for med interactions due to polypharmacy
KEY TAKEAWAYS

• Cannabis can have a role in chronic pain, but not in patients with addiction and active psychiatric conditions.

• Monitoring for SI with SSRIs is warranted when starting in patients with these issues.
ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND CHRONIC PAIN

• **Tricyclics**
  - Most evidence vs SNRI for chronic pain
  - Can be used for depression and anxiety
  - Titrate to effect slowly, may need higher doses for pain as well
  - Side effects are bothersome, especially in patients over 65YO
    - Desipramine and Nortriptyline are safer for those patients
    - Caution in ischemic cardiac disease or conduction problems
ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND CHRONIC PAIN

• **SNRIs**
  – Venlafaxine-evidence for peripheral neuropathy
  – Duloxetine-neuropathy, fibromyalgia, low back pain, and osteoarthritis
  – May increase blood pressure
KEY TAKEAWAYS

• Consider medications for treatment of co-occurring conditions.

• Patients with addiction, chronic pain, and psychiatric conditions need a broader psychosocial approach
BUPRENORPHINE AND PAIN

• Buprenorphine can provide an analgesic effect
  – All poor quality studies
  – Bup vs Tramadol: similar pain reductions
  – Bup vs Fentanyl: similar pain reduction
  – Bup vs morphine: morphine has more pain reduction

• No evidence that doses > 24mg are more helpful
ENCOURAGING ENGAGEMENT/ALLIANCE

• Work on engaging
  – Elicit story
  – Elicit hopes and dreams
  – Feedback
  – Address barriers

• Focus on patient’s goals
  – Housing
  – Personal life
  – Work

• Listen to what the patient might need → increase flexibility?

• Use as a form of measurement-based care

Ling et al, 2012; Mitchell et al, 2011
Psychiatry and Addictions Case Conference (UW PACC)

Thursday, September 29, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PST

Alcohol Use Disorders and Harm Reduction

Speaker: Susan E. Collins, PhD
Panelists: Mark Duncan, MD, Richard Ries, MD

Session Agenda

Save to My Outlook Calendar

UW PACC is sponsored by the UW Integrated Care Program (ICTP), funded and supported by the Washington State Legislature through the Safety-Net Hospital Assessment, working to expand access to psychiatric services throughout the State of Washington.

Schedule of Upcoming Presentations
STRENGTH OF MODEL: CLINICAL SUPPORT
How do you know what kind of clinical challenges you are having and what kind of impact they are having at your clinic?
## POPULATION-BASED CARE

### Registry Requirements

- Tracks progress at individual level and at caseload level
- Tracks population-based care
- Facilitates efficient systematic case review
- Prompts treatment to target

### Treatment Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View</th>
<th>Treatment Status</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Initial Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Most Recent Contact</th>
<th>Number of Follow-up Contacts</th>
<th>Weeks in Treatment</th>
<th>PHQ-9 Score</th>
<th>Last Available PHQ-9 Score</th>
<th>% Change in PHQ-9 Score</th>
<th>Date of Last PHQ-9 Score</th>
<th>GAD-7 Score</th>
<th>Last Available GAD-7 Score</th>
<th>% Change in GAD-7 Score</th>
<th>Date of Last GAD-7 Score</th>
<th>Psychiatric Consultation</th>
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<td>Albert Smith</td>
<td>8/13/2015</td>
<td>12/2/2015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>12/2/2015</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-29%</td>
<td>!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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## Addiction Registry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Treatment Status</th>
<th>Urine Drug Screens</th>
<th>Brief Addiction Monitor</th>
<th>MAT</th>
<th>Last PMP accessed</th>
<th>Addiction Consult</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initial Assessment</td>
<td>Most Recent</td>
<td># Sessions</td>
<td>Weeks in Tx</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>8/25/17</td>
<td>9/21/17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Opioids, THC, Cocaine</td>
<td>THC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally</td>
<td>6/21/17</td>
<td>8/1/17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alcohol, THC</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCOUNTABLE CARE

• The registry

• Tracks patients individually and the population as a whole

• Start to see trends
  – What is my retention rate as a clinic?
  – Is my clinic doing as well as other clinics?
  – Are people getting regular follow-up?
  – Are people as a whole getting better?

• Plan ➔ Do ➔ Study ➔ Act
SUMMARY

- Think through potential psychosocial issues to augment in treatment
- Treat co-occurring psych disorder
- Address ongoing pain issue
- Don’t discontinue treatment
- Work with patient’s on life goals
- Shared decision making
- Not a good fit?
  - Help with transfer to new treatment center
- Get ongoing support
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