Factors That Affect Opioid Use for Postpartum Pain Control in Women with Opioid Use Disorder

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Introduction

- Opioid dependence during pregnancy is a global public health problem.^{1,2}
- Pregnant women with opioid use disorder (OUD) can be managed successfully with methadone or buprenorphine at specialized treatment centers.³
- Patients with OUD can be hypersensitive to pain, which can precipitate withdrawal. ^{3, 4}
- Factors that influence the use of postpartum opioids for pain control in pregnant women with OUD are not well studied.

Objective

To determine the impact of various demographic, social, and clinical variables on the use of postpartum opioids for pain in pregnant women with opioid use disorder.

Methods

- Single center retrospective cohort study from January 2017 through March 2021
- Inclusion: Pregnant women with history of OUD
- Primary outcome: Use of postpartum opioids for pain management
- Need for, amount of, and type of opioid pain management (oral and IV) were collected for all patients.
- Demographic, social and clinical data were collected (Table 1)

Results

- 330 patients were identified with OUD
- 89 patients (27%) on methadone and 204 patients (62%) on buprenorphine
- 101 (31%) required postpartum pain management with opioids, mostly with oral oxycodone
- Univariate analysis found cesarean delivery (P<0.001), preterm delivery (P=0.008), and active illicit drug use in pregnancy (P<0.001) to be significantly associated with postpartum opioid pain management. (Figure 1)
- Multivariable logistic regression analysis continued to find all three variables statistically significant (all P values < 0.001)
- PPD#2 required the largest amount on average (38.17mg ± 18.66)

Table 1: Impact of demographic, social, and clinical variables on postpartum opioid use for pain

	Postpa	Postpartum Opioid Use		
	Yes (n=101)	No (n=229)	P value	
Age (years)	31.5 (±5.1)	30.8 (±4.9)	0.241	
BMI (kg/m2)	30.7 (±6.8)	30.2 (±6.1)	0.542	
Maternal Comorbidities	26 (25.7%)	57 (24.9%)	0.979	
Psychiatric Diagnosis	73 (72.3%)	160 (69.9%)	0.755	
Caucasian/White	97 (96%)	208 (90.8%)	1.000	
Unemployment	54 (80.6%)	112 (75.2%)	0.483	
Medicaid Insurance	73 (77.7%)	172 (81.1%)	0.152	
Tobacco use	55 (75.3%)	118 (70.7%)	0.557	
History of Abuse	15 (15.6%)	28 (12.7%)	0.608	
Opioid maintenance therapy			0.053	
Methadone	31 (37.3%)	51 (25.1%)		
Subutex/Suboxone	52 (62.7%)	152 (74.9%)		
Polysubstance use	66 (68.8%)	143 (66.5%)	0.797	
Active Drug Use in Pregnancy	47 (46.5%)	63 (27.6%)	0.001	
Overdose in pregnancy	2 (2.1%)	3 (1.4%)	0.646	
Preterm delivery	26 (25.7%)	30 (13.1%)	0.008	
Mode of Delivery			< 0.001	
Primary C section (n=89)	56 (56%)	33 (14.7%)		
Repeat C section (n=61)	36 (36%)	25 (11.1%)		
Vaginal delivery (n=169)	8 (8%)	161 (71.6%)		
Data presented as mean +/- SD or N (%)				

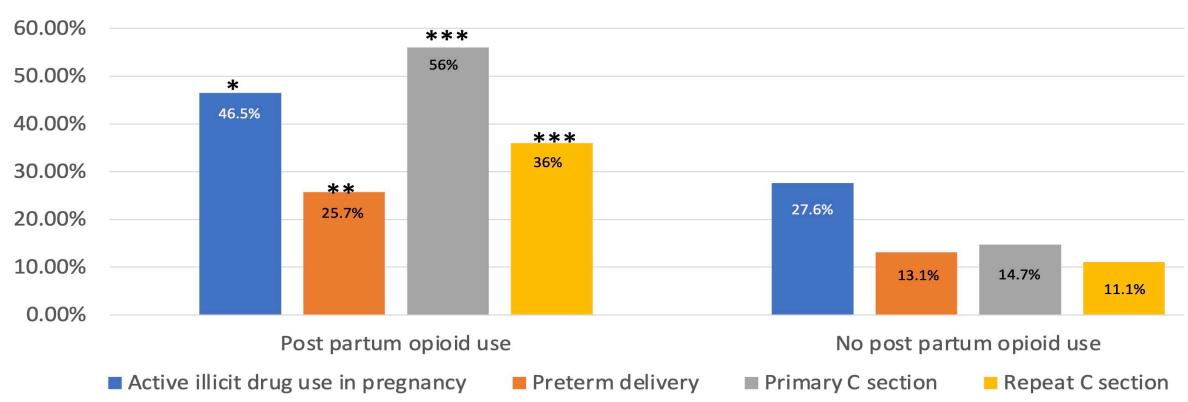
Women with active drug use in pregnancy, preterm delivery or cesarean delivery were more likely to require postpartum opioids for pain control, with the highest dosage on postpartum day 2.

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Tables & Figures

Postpartum Day	Mean	SD	Median	Min	Max
Zero (n=47)	20.19	21.6	15	5	150
One (n=101)	34.93	21.35	30	5	120
Two (n=101)	38.17	18.66	40	5	90
Three (n=96)	34.25	20.17	30	5	120



*P=0.001 **P=0.008

***P=<0.001

Discussion

- patients.

References

Table 2: Total daily dose of oxycodone (mg) requirement after delivery

Figure 1: Comparison of post partum opioid use for pain control in women with opioid use disorder

 Women with OUD may require more frequent and higher dosages of pain medication postpartum. • Further research is needed to develop appropriate postpartum pain control regimens for this cohort of

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