

ANAES ACP ACADEMIC DAY 2021 - Abstract Submission

Category: MEDICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH

Title: Survey of Physician Comfort and Attitudes in Perioperative Opioid Prescription in Patients with Chronic Pain

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Abstract

Aim: This study examines current practices, experiences, beliefs, concerns regarding negative outcomes and confidence of non-pain specialty anaesthetists regarding prescribing opioids to chronic pain patients. Design: Electronic cross-sectional survey. Subjects: Physicians from Division of Anaesthesiology excluding pain specialists Settings: Singapore General Hospital

Methodology: An online survey was conducted, investigating 1) socio-demographic and practice characteristics, 2) current opioid prescribing practices, 3) experiences and beliefs toward prescribing opioid analgesics for chronic non-malignant pain, 4) confidence and comfort when prescribing opioids, and 5) educational and training needs in chronic pain management.

Results: 123 anaesthetists (80.9%) responded to the survey. It was noted that only 38.2% of respondents were comfortable managing patients with chronic pain. Majority (86.2%) felt that anaesthetists should be the primary doctors in the management of postoperative pain in chronic pain patients and 61% believed that chronic pain trained specialist anaesthetists should be responsible. 92.7% of respondents agreed that patients who are educated about their pain tend to do better. Most importantly, 96.7% of respondents feel that they will benefit from more education regarding pain management in chronic pain patients.

Conclusions: Majority of non-pain specialist anaesthetists recognise the importance of education regarding pain management for non-malignant chronic pain patients. Many feel that they are not confident in managing these patients and will benefit from Continuing Medical Education and self-assessment courses to improve their confidence. These results could be used to enrich current pain management courses.