HARM OF MEDICATIONS TO PAIN MEDICINE

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So opioids are the “most dangerous drugs in the western pharmacopoeia” but that’s OK we have a number of others we can use, that are safe with low numbers to treat, don’t we? There are problems.

The NNT’s aren’t nearly as good as we were first led to believe \(^1\).

The more we use the medications, the more problems we see.

The literature reports increasing evidence of drug misuse and abuse in a number of the drugs we use \(^2,3\).

Treatment for codeine dependency related to OTC Codeine products continues to rise.

As we become more aware of Pharmacogenetics, it may help explain why drugs don’t work in a number of our patients.

And the marijuana debate continues.

Currently we don’t have a pharmaceutical product we can rely on to treat chronic pain. As practitioners we wish to help our patients. However currently available physical treatments don’t always help.

We need to educate our patients and the Community that drugs at best will only have a minor benefit. Patients need to embrace our recommendations and put in place appropriate strategies to manage their pain long term and improve their Quality of Life.

We must provide appropriate Pain Management for all our patients in a safe and timely manner.