

Analgesic opioid use disorders in patients with chronic non-cancer pain: A holistic approach for tailored management

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▶ To cite this version:

Célian Bertin, Noémie Delage, Benjamin Rolland, Lucie Pennel, Mélina Fatseas, et al.. Analgesic opioid use disorders in patients with chronic non-cancer pain: A holistic approach for tailored management. Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, 2021, 121, pp.160 - 174. 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2020.12.015 . hal-03493763

HAL Id: hal-03493763 https://hal.science/hal-03493763v1

Submitted on 2 Jan 2023

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1 ANALGESIC OPIOID USE DISORDERS IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC NON-CANCER PAIN:

2 A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR TAILORED MANAGEMENT

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29 **Declaration of interest:**

- 30 Célian Bertin, Jessica Delorme, Chouki Chenaf and Nicolas Authier declare that they have no conflict
- 31 of interest.
- 32 Noémie Delage received occasional sponsorship to attend scientific meetings from Grünenthal[®],
- 33 Mylan[®], Ethypharm[®] outside the submitted work.
- 34 Benjamin Rolland received sponsorship to attend scientific meetings and speaker honoraria from
- 35 Ethypharm[®], Indivior[®], Camurus[®], Recordati[®], Grünenthal[®] outside the submitted work.
- 36 Lucie Pennel received occasional sponsorship to attend scientific meetings from Lundbeck[®],
- 37 Recordati[®], Gilead[®] outside the submitted work.
- 38 Mélina Fatseas received occasional sponsorship to attend scientific meetings from Recordati[®],
- 39 Indivior[®], Pfizer[®] outside the submitted work.
- 40 Anne-Priscille Trouvin reports personal fees to attend scientific meetings and speaker honoraria from
- 41 Pfizer[®], Menarini[®], Astellas[®] and Recordati[®] outside the submitted work.

42 Abstract:

43 Chronic pain is a major public health issue that frequently leads to analgesic opioid prescriptions. 44 These prescriptions could cause addiction issues in high-risk patients with associated comorbidities, 45 especially those of a psychiatric, addictive, and social nature. Pain management in dependent patients 46 is complex and is yet to be established. By combining the views of professionals from various 47 specialties, we conducted an integrative review on this scope. This methodology synthesizes 48 knowledge and results of significant practical studies to provide a narrative overview of the literature. 49 The main results consisted in first proposing definitions that could allow shared vocabulary among 50 health professionals regardless of their specialties. Next, a discussion was conducted around the main 51 strategies for managing prescription opioid dependence, as well as pain in the context of opioid 52 dependence and associated comorbidities. As a conclusion, we proposed to define the contours of 53 holistic management by outlining the main guidelines for creating a multidisciplinary care framework 54 for multi-comorbid patients with chronic pathologies.

55 Keywords:

56 chronic pain; drug abuse; overdose; opioid withdrawal; opioid proper use

57 1. INTRODUCTION

58 The chronic nature of pain makes it a unique pathology regardless of the initial etiology. Acute pain is the response to an essential physiological mechanism which alerts the body when it is at risk of injury. 59 60 In some patients, this pain may persist, according to various mechanisms (neuropathic, nociplastic or 61 nociceptive), which will be developed later in this manuscript (see part 4). Based on the definition, 62 chronic pain could be defined as experiencing pain for a period exceeding 3-6 months (Institute of 63 Medicine (US) Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education, 2011). The global 64 prevalence of chronic pain is estimated at 19%-32% (Breivik et al., 2006; Chenaf et al., 2018; Treede 65 et al., 2015). A recent analysis of the National Health Interview Survey conducted by the Center for 66 Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 1 in 5 adults in the USA has chronic pain (Dahlhamer, 67 2018). Chronic pain is among the most common reasons for medical visits and frequently leads to 68 opioid analgesic prescriptions (Dahlhamer, 2018; Daubresse et al., 2013; Treede et al., 2015); further, 69 it has become a major public health issue in two ways. First, it has a high annual economic cost in 70 terms of healthcare and lost productivity, which is estimated at \$560-630 billion per year (Institute of 71 Medicine (US) Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education, 2011). Second, given 72 the considerable increase in opioid prescription over the past two decades, there has been a 73 concomitant increase in the rates of misuse (21-29%) and addiction (8-12%) in patients with chronic 74 pain (Vowles et al., 2015), which leads to unintentional intoxication and death (Shipton et al., 2018). This trend began in North America before gradually spreading to most of the world's industrialized 75 76 countries (Agence Nationale de Sécurité du Médicament et des produits de santé, 2019; Chenaf et al., 2016; European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2018; Gallagher and Galvin, 2018; 77 78 Häuser et al., 2017; Manchikanti et al., 2018; Van Amsterdam and Van den Brink, 2015) and several 79 developing countries in Africa and Asia (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018). 80 Depending on the criteria used, a literature review conducted by Højsted and Sjøgren (2007) reported 81 that the prevalence of prescription opioid problematic behavior in patients with chronic non-cancer 82 pain was up to 50%. Further, this risk is increased among patients with associated comorbidities,

particularly psychiatric and addictive, which are common in patients with chronic pain (Barry et al.,
2016; Barth et al., 2013).

These risk factors should be assessed prior to the initial opioid analgesic prescription. Upon initiation of the prescriptions, it is necessary to analyze the relevance of each renewal and to check for potential problematic use of prescribed opioids, as well as the most appropriate pain management.

88 The first part of this article will attempt to define the terms in favor of a shared vocabulary between 89 health professionals involved in the management of this category of complex patients, regardless of 90 their specialty. The following sections will first outline the withdrawal strategies that may be proposed 91 for the opioid use disorder of these patients, and then the possibilities for analgesic management of 92 their chronic pain, taking into account their potential co-morbidities. The final section will consider a 93 holistic approach for the tailored management of prescription analgesic opioids in patients with 94 chronic pain, with the exclusion of progressive cancer, depending on the different problematic use 95 patterns.

96 This integrative review provides a narrative overview across various lines of research in order to 97 inform experts and non-experts alike. This methodology allows the synthesis of knowledge and the 98 possibilities of using the results of significant practical studies. It allows the integration of several 99 methods, both qualitative and quantitative. In this regard, an in-depth systematic report of specific 100 research fields is beyond the scope of this work. However, for further reading, we refer throughout this 101 review to systematic or more in-depth work, for each topic addressed.

102 2. DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANALGESIC OPIOID USE DISORDERS

103 The diagnosis of opioid use disorder appeared in the 5th version of the *Diagnostic Statistical Manual* 104 of Mental Disorders (DSM), (American Psychiatric Association, 2013; Hasin et al., 2013), and 105 combines the categorical diagnoses of abuse, dependence and addiction from the previous edition, 106 which continue to be used frequently (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 107 2016). This evolution corresponds to the clinically observed continuum, which focuses not on the

existence of 'substance addiction' but on the use made of the substance, of increasing severity - mild,
moderate, severe - according to the number of rated clinical criteria.

110 Some of these diagnoses, established in the absence of chronic pain, lose their meaning when placed in 111 a pain context where the opioid involved in the substance use disorder is prescribed and dispensed 112 through conventional networks (Hasin et al., 2013). Some attempts to define these diagnoses have 113 been published by different academic societies, and show convergences, without reaching a consensus 114 (American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society and the American Society of 115 Addiction Medicine, 2001; O'Connor et al., 2013; Quinlan and Cox, 2017; Savage et al., 2003; Smith 116 et al., 2013; Webster and Fine, 2010). The definitions proposed in this article are not intended to reach 117 a consensus but to summarize the main points of the definitions proposed by these academic societies, 118 enriched by the transdisciplinary vision of the authors' different specialties - psychiatrists,

119 addictologists, pharmacologists, and pain physicians.

120 Diagnostic criteria for opioid use disorder have been defined in patients free of chronic pain 121 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). They are partially unsuitable for patients who have 122 developed a substance use disorder related to opioid analgesics prescribed in the context of chronic 123 pain. For example, the criterion assessing the desire to reduce opioid use may be limited by pain, not 124 by loss of control related to the use disorder. The notion of time spent obtaining the substance is not 125 valid as it is prescribed and dispensed through conventional health care networks, nor are the criteria 126 assessing the impact of opioid use on general activities of daily living that are already impacted by 127 pain and/or adverse treatment effects. Therefore, to differentiate it from the broader concept of opioid 128 use disorders, we will refer to this subtype of use disorder, which focuses on opioid analgesic use in 129 chronic pain, as a prescribed opioid use disorder (POUD). Table 1 summarizes all the definitions used 130 in this manuscript.

131 **2.1 Tolerance, pharmacodependence and withdrawal syndrome**

Tolerance is a physiological adaptation mechanism causes patient habituation with subsequent
progressive loss of efficacy and a need for increased doses to maintain the expected effect (Quinlan

134 and Cox, 2017; Webster and Fine, 2010). This adaptation constitutes a new physiological steady state 135 of the central nervous system (Smith et al., 2013). Therefore, a sudden decrease or withdrawal of the 136 drug, as well as an excessively long interval between two drug doses, can lead to balance disruption 137 and lead to a withdrawal syndrome with severe physical and psychological effects, indicating the existence of pharmacological dependence to the substance. (American Academy of Pain Medicine, the 138 139 American Pain Society and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2001). All opioids have 140 similar symptoms; however, the symptoms vary in terms of severity and duration. Patients might begin 141 experiencing symptoms after 6-30 hours depending on the opioid elimination rate. The main 142 symptoms of opioid withdrawal syndrome include lacrimation; rhinorrhea and sneezing; yawning; hot 143 and cold flushes; sweating and piloerection; craving; anxiety; restlessness and irritability; disturbed 144 sleep; gastrointestinal tract symptoms; muscle, bone, and joint aches and pains; headache; muscle 145 cramps; and tremor. The severity of signs and symptoms can be assessed using validated withdrawal 146 scales, including the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (Wesson and Ling, 2003).

147 **2.2 Problematic use of prescription analgesic opioids**

148 2.2.1 Misuse and abuse

149 Misuse is a broad clinical concept referring to all uses other than those for which the drug was 150 prescribed or indicated and without consideration of intentionality or potential consequences. Studies 151 on prescription opioids have widely applied the "misuse" concept as demonstrated by the findings of a 152 recent systematic review (Brady et al., 2016). The definition of misuse is sufficiently broad to 153 encompass most of the aberrant prescribed opioid uses, including individuals who do not meet the 154 criteria for substance use disorder or dependence. Therefore, exploring misuse is simple and suitably 155 allows for large-scale pharmacoepidemiological studies, especially big-data analytics on insurance 156 claims databases (Cochran et al., 2015) or nationwide surveillance databases (Dart et al., 2015). 157 However, there are pitfalls and ambiguity associated with the common definition of misuse. The 158 definition of inappropriate medication use can be based on different criteria, including the 159 characteristics of the user (i.e., non-prescribed use of a prescription-only drug) or the prescription

(i.e., dosage and/or treatment duration), reason for use (e.g., use for recreational purposes, anxiolytic,
hypnotic, and stimulant-effect seeking), non-respect with the summary of product characteristics (e.g.,
use for a non-validated indication or by a non-conventional administration route, such as long-term
use of subcutaneous or intravenous morphine), and lack of the clinically relevant symptoms (e.g., lack
of pain) (Barrett et al., 2008).

165 However, some situations in prescribed opioid practice hardly fit these criteria. For example, some 166 off-label opioid prescriptions might not follow the leaflet, particularly the dosage and treatment 167 duration, but are still regarded as medical use as long as the patient follows the prescription. Further, 168 the use of opioid analgesics not prescribed to the individual but obtained from family, friends, or the 169 black market might comply with the summary of product characteristics; however, the lack of 170 prescription qualifies it as misuse since it was not validated by a physician. Finally, it is occasionally 171 difficult to differentiate between misuse and pseudo-addiction in some patients (see part 2.2.3). 172 However, in clinical practice, "misuse" remains a simple and convenient term that encompasses most of the aberrant use patterns of prescribed drugs, including opioid analgesics. 173

Moreover, "abuse" occasionally has a similar definition; however, it can cause confusion since the
DSM-IV-TR concept of "abuse" is quite different (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration, 2016). However, this "abuse" concept preferentially refers to non-therapeutic
substance use.

178 2.2.2 Addiction

In 2001, an American pain expert consortium proposed the following definition for substance addiction: a primary, chronic, neurobiological disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors that influence its development and manifestations. Substance addiction is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving (American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2001). This definition demonstrates the cardinal addiction features, which are sustained by long-lasting structural and functional neuroadaptations in the reward, motivational, and emotional brain circuits (Kalivas and Volkow, 2005;
Volkow and Morales, 2015).

188 The concept of craving is a central element in this definition and in addiction assessment. It is 189 characterized by an intense and compulsive desire to use a substance or engage in hedonic behaviors. 190 Craving has been recently identified as a central concept and clinically relevant feature in addictive 191 behavior and is included in the DSM-5 criteria. Laboratory (Carter and Tiffany, 1999; Childress et al., 192 2008) and daily life studies using ecological momentary assessment approaches have demonstrated a 193 relationship among craving episodes, substance use, and relapse risk (Fatseas et al., 2015; Serre et al., 194 2015). There is a clear difference between a craving and physical dependence with the latter being 195 related to physiological adaptation to chronic opioid exposure. Conversely, whereas physical signs of 196 withdrawal, or physical tolerance to opioids that the body may have gradually developed, disappear 197 quickly and naturally after opioid abstinence, craving can persist years after opioid discontinuation. 198 This persistence of craving is a relapse risk factor that increases the risk of overdose in a patient who is 199 physically withdrawn from opioids and, thus, has a tolerance that has dissipated. The management, 200 particularly pharmacological, of opioid withdrawal promotes a better control of craving and reduces 201 the risk of relapse and overdose (Kakko et al., 2019; Kreek, 2006).

These notions regarding a patient's loss of control over his/her consumption and having cravings are particularly relevant since they allow discrimination of patients suffering from a real opioid addiction from those only experiencing symptoms of physical and/or psychological dependence.

205 2.2.3 Pseudo-addiction

206 Pseudo-addiction refers to the aberrant use of prescribed analgesic treatments by a patient with

inadequately managed pain. In this context, pseudo-addiction disappears upon the improvement of
analgesic management (Greene and Chambers, 2015; Webster and Fine, 2010).

209 Based on previous definitions, this notion might constitute a language abuse in situations where the

210 patient does not feel a loss of control or associated craving. This suggests that it would then be more

211 appropriate to include definitions for pseudo-misuse or abuse. However, adding terminology would

212 unnecessarily complicate the subject without any particular benefit since the solution involves

213 improving chronic pain management using pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies (see214 part 4).

215 2.2.4 Opioid-induced hyperalgesia

Hyperalgesia is defined as "increased pain from a stimulus that normally provokes pain" (International
Association for the Study of Pain Task Force on Taxonomy, 1994). The iatrogenic phenomenon of
opioid-induced hyperalgesia (OIH) is described as "a state of enhanced pain sensitization in patients
who are on chronic opioid therapy" (Yi and Pryzbylkowski, 2015).

220 This paradoxical body reaction could be confused with the tolerance phenomenon since they both 221 involve reduced opioid analgesic response (Hayhurst and Durieux, 2016). However, unlike in 222 tolerance phenomenon, patients with OIH report no or very short-term pain relief upon increased doses. Finally, it is generally associated with a higher pain intensity than that initially reported with 223 224 generalized, diffuse, and poorly systematized complaints (Lee et al., 2011; Ramasubbu and Gupta, 225 2011). OIH generally occurs faster than the tolerance phenomenon; further, its pathophysiological 226 mechanism remains unclear (Raffa and Pergolizzi, 2013). There is no consensus on OIH management; 227 however, it mostly involves progressive withdrawal strategies, opioid rotation, use of N-methyl-D-228 aspartate (NMDA) antagonists, e.g., ketamine, methadone, or dextromethorphan, as well as other non-229 opioid pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies (Lee et al., 2011; Ramasubbu and Gupta, 230 2011; Yi and Pryzbylkowski, 2015).

231 **3. DIFFERENT STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING PRESCRIBED OPIOID USE DISORDERS**

The concepts defined above (see part 2 and Table 1) show the existence of different types of deviant use of opioids that are prescribed to chronic pain patients for analgesic purposes, grouped under the term "POUD" in this study. POUD management in patients with chronic pain addresses two main concerns; namely, eliminating aberrant behavior that can lead to serious complications and restoring a care framework that allows efficient chronic pain management. Currently, there is no standardized and validated strategy for chronic pain management in patients with POUD. In the absence of validated recommendations, the different management options should be presented to the patient and applied in
a collaborative manner (Dowell et al., 2016). The patient should be informed of the rapid loss of body
tolerance to opioids in the days following withdrawal and the resulting increased risk of overdose if
opioids are reintroduced at doses similar to those prior to withdrawal (Chang et al., 2018; Dunlap and
Cifu, 2016). Prescription of a naloxone rescue kit increases vigilance over this risk and reduces
mortality from overdose (Boyer, 2012; Wermeling, 2015).

The key points of opioid prescription in chronic pain patients are outlined in Table 2, according to the temporality of patient management: start of care (before any opioid prescription or in case of active opioid prescriptions), when opioid is prescribed, and after the opioid prescription. The table summarizes the elements to be taken into account when the physician is confronted with a prescription or the renewal of a prescription of opioids for chronic pain.

249 Prior to management (see Table 2), it is important to carry out a complete history of the disorders and 250 accurately assess the patient's pain complaints. A meticulous interview should be conducted that 251 eliminates the need for an etiological assessment and allows for phenotyping of the prescribed 252 analgesic opioid disorder and assessment for associated psychiatric and addictologic comorbidities. 253 The latter factors might interfere with the patient's management or cause relapse; therefore, they 254 require management. The use of validated POUD screening, e.g., the Prescription Opioid Misuse 255 Index (Knisely et al., 2008); risk-stratification (Webster and Webster, 2005); and comorbidity 256 assessment tools might be relevant for interview completion (Dowell et al., 2016). Therefore, 257 regardless of the short- or long-term pharmacotherapy, it might be appropriate to offer holistic care 258 involving a combination of pain physicians, psychiatrists, addiction physicians, and social workers. 259 Further, it is imperative to combine psychotherapy (motivational and supportive, cognitive and 260 behavioral, etc. see part 4.3.2), physical activity, and social and occupational therapies to allow 261 functional recovery perspective and cost-efficient consultation with the general practitioner (care 262 coordinator) (Fashler et al., 2016; Gatchel and Okifuji, 2006; Guzmán et al., 2001; Stanos, 2012).

263 **3.1 Abrupt withdrawal**

264 From a symptomatic approach, pharmacologic management of opioid withdrawal syndrome has been 265 well established in patients with chronic pain without comorbidities and/or prolonged or high-dose 266 opioids (Agency Medical Director's Group, 2015; Berna et al., 2015; Shah and Huecker, 2019; World 267 Health Organization, 2009): 268 High blood pressure, restlessness, sweating, or tremors can be treated with clonidine, an alpha-2 269 adrenergic agonist (Gowing et al., 2014) 270 Digestive symptoms can be treated by anti-emetics (e.g., metoclopramide for nausea or 271 loperamide for diarrhea) or anti-spasmodic (e.g., phloroglucinol) 272 Insomnia can be treated by the following non-addictive treatments at bedtime: melatonin agonist, 273 antihistamines, atypical antipsychotics, or sedative tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline 274 and nortriptyline), which can help with pain relief with a reduced risk of dependence associated 275 with benzodiazepines and derivatives (Lie et al., 2015; Nazarian and Park, 2014); 276 Muscle pain can be treated by acetaminophen, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), 277 or muscle relaxants with no or short-term use of benzodiazepines. 278 However, from a functional perspective, abrupt or antagonist-induced withdrawal, even under 279 sedation, is not recommended in patients with chronic pain with POUD (Collins et al., 2005; Singh 280 and Basu, 2004). POUD frequently occurs when comorbidities, especially psychiatric or 281 environmental issues, are not considered along with initial pain (Martin et al., 2011) or when opioid 282 prescriptions are renewed without global reassessment. Employing ultra-rapid detoxification poses a 283 risk of increased doctor shopping, illicit drug use, or revealed mental health disorders, especially 284 anxiety disorders, suicidal ideation, and insomnia (Passik et al., 2006). Moreover, some withdrawal 285 symptoms can persist for several months after opioid reduction. In patients experiencing pain, a higher 286 dose and duration of opioid use leads to a concomitantly higher risk of mental health issues, as well as 287 alcohol and other substance use disorders. This further indicates that opioid discontinuation should be 288 progressive and assisted by maintenance treatment in coordination with other prescribers and family

members (Berna et al., 2015; Martin et al., 2011; Soyka et al., 2017). Taking all these factors into
consideration suggests that this rapid strategy should only be applied in urgent cases (Dunlap and Cifu,
2016).

292 **3.2 Progressive withdrawal**

Gradual opioid analgesic withdrawal is the most common empirical strategy. It is often employed when the opioid use is considered not, or no longer, relevant for chronic pain management (Murphy et al., 2018). This might be related to a lack of efficacy or excessive adverse effects, including drug dependence and OIH. This strategy is relevant when there is drug dependence, misuse, and OIH. Regarding addiction, craving persistence can be a significant obstacle to this strategy. Upon a decision for opioid therapy discontinuation, the opioids should be tapered under medical supervision.

Upon adoption of this strategy, a slow and planned treatment reduction (Rolland et al., 2017) in conjunction with the attending physician is recommended. It is imperative to inform the patient about the clinical withdrawal symptoms that could occur during the treatment decrease, especially those regarding pain. These symptoms could appear during weaning and disappear after a long post-decrease period (Berna et al., 2015). Patients should not be misadvised that there is continuing relevance to continuing opioid analgesic treatment. In case of persistence, the analgesic indication should be reconsidered and the therapeutic options (pharmacological or not) should be reassessed.

306 There is no validated slow withdrawal protocol. Initially, a transition from immediate-release opioids 307 to a long-acting galenic can be proposed to reduce the brain's peak effect and space out the doses. It 308 has been recognized that pharmacokinetic characteristics, including rapid attainment of peak plasma 309 concentrations, have a significant role in the process of developing dependence (Allain et al., 2015). 310 Subsequently, we propose a progressive gradual withdrawal protocol involving an initial 50% 311 reduction target within the first 3-6 months and complete withdrawal within the next 6-12 months. 312 Other protocols employ different reduction rates ranging from 10% of the total daily dose every day to 313 10% of the total daily dose every 1-2 weeks (Kahan et al., 2011). However, all protocols promote a 314 decrease rate tailored for the patient's tolerance with stabilization or increased doses, as appropriate.

315 Upon progressive withdrawal failure, it is important to assess factors that could impede the care,

316 including the potential associated comorbidities. Therefore, it is important to consider the following

317 two strategies, which involve the rotation to a longer half-life opioid that could be more easily stopped

318 (Burma et al., 2017).

319 **3.3** Short-term opioid rotation with the progressive withdrawal of the second opioid

After progressive withdrawal failure, opioids can be rotated to longer half-life alternatives. Suitable alternatives include buprenorphine (combined or not combined with naloxone) and methadone, which are recommended for opioid use disorder management not involving chronic pain (Gowing et al., 2017). Their prolonged binding to mu-opioid receptors prevents the onset of withdrawal symptoms while maintaining the analgesic action. However, there is no established equianalgesic protocol;

325 therefore, it is recommended to conduct progressive titration.

326 Buprenorphine is a partial mu receptor agonist with pharmacological characteristics requiring a brief 327 initial abrupt withdrawal prior to its introduction with a washout duration of 24-36 hours. Lack of this exposes the patient to a risk of iatrogenic withdrawal syndrome, which is often poorly tolerated and 328 329 affects the therapeutic relationship (Jones, 2004). Nevertheless, protocols for the introduction of 330 buprenorphine, limiting this washout period without causing withdrawal syndrome, are beginning to be published and practiced more regularly (Ghosh et al., 2019). Buprenorphine has the advantage of 331 332 reducing the risk of unintentional intoxication by having a limit beyond which it causes no other 333 respiratory effects without losing its analgesic effect (Dahan et al., 2006; Davis, 2012; Khanna and 334 Pillarisetti, 2015). The buprenorphine-naloxone combination reduces the risk of route diversion since 335 naloxone becomes bioavailable only when the tablet is snorted or injected, which blocks the agonist 336 effect of buprenorphine (Harricharan and Farah, 2017).

337 Methadone allows more flexible handling due to its complete mu receptor agonist profile. Therefore, it

338 could be introduced in parallel with existing opioid analgesics. It is important to slowly titrate it given

the high risk of opioid overdose and heart rhythm disorders by QTc prolongation (College of

340 Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, 2019; Fredheim et al., 2008; Hawley et al., 2017). Once

a balance of these long half-life treatments has been achieved, the patient can then undergo gradual
withdrawal. The chances of a successful withdrawal are improved when it is slower (Dunn et al.,
2011; Singh and Basu, 2004). In case of failure, continued long-term long half-life opioid treatment
could be considered (Fiellin et al., 2014).

345 **3.4 Long-term opioid maintenance treatment**

346 In case previous strategies fail or if the patient has a comorbid condition that interferes with opioid 347 withdrawal, long-term maintenance opioid therapy could be continued. Similar to the aforementioned 348 notion, the most suitable molecules for this are buprenorphine (+/- naloxone) and methadone. In 349 addition to preventing opioid withdrawal symptoms, increased doses of long-term opioid maintenance 350 treatment effectively reduce craving and the relapse risk (Kakko et al., 2019). Moreover, opioid 351 maintenance treatment blocks the rewarding effects of short-acting opioids through the tolerance 352 mechanism and cross-tolerance, which can, in turn, reduce the craving and loss of control (Kreek, 353 2006). Properly prescribed methadone and buprenorphine have been shown to enhance retention in treatment, reduce opioid use and overdose mortality, and improve global clinical outcome (Kreek, 354 355 2006; Mattick et al., 2014, 2009). Among individuals dependent on prescription opioids, treatment 356 with opioid agonists has been shown to have clear clinical improvement, including substance use, 357 general health, and pain (Weiss et al., 2015). Since addiction is considered a chronic illness with 358 individual and environmental vulnerability factors, pharmacotherapy should be included in 359 comprehensive and continued care through long-term treatment management strategies and continued 360 monitoring (McLellan et al., 2000). Clinical efforts are required to assess the risks and criteria for 361 addiction among patients with chronic pain on opioid medications and to refer to addiction treatment 362 specialists when indicated.

363 4. MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN DURING AND AFTER OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

As aforementioned, pain exacerbation could occur during the opioid withdrawal period (Wesson and Ling, 2003). This transient exacerbation should be expected as an opioid withdrawal symptom and should not be confused with initial chronic pain. This painful condition is usually spontaneously resolved without treatment (World Health Organization, 2009). However, in the case of major
discomfort, short-term symptomatic analgesic treatment with acetaminophen or NSAIDs could be
offered to the patient.

370 Apart from the withdrawal, management of the initial chronic pain could be problematic. The initial 371 chronic pain, which is responsible for the opioid analgesic prescriptions, could still be present. 372 Different mechanisms, neuropathic, nociplastic, nociceptive, or mixed (associating several 373 mechanisms together) may be at the origin of chronic pain, with symptoms and treatments that may 374 differ according to the type of pain (Christiansen and Cohen, 2018). These elements, with typical 375 examples for each type of pain, are further developed in Table 3. Regardless of the chronic pain type, 376 chronic pain has a complex effect on the patient's biological, psychological, and social spheres that 377 contributes to its persistence; therefore, the drug response alone is rarely sufficient (Fashler et al., 378 2016; Trouvin and Perrot, 2019; Turk et al., 2011). This is especially the case for patients dependent 379 on opioid analgesics with subsequent limited use of these molecules. Therefore, it is imperative to 380 offer holistic multidisciplinary care to these patients. This multidisciplinary team could include the 381 following professionals: primary care provider, pain physician, addiction and psychiatrist specialists, 382 pharmacist, nurse, psychologist, physical or occupational therapist, and social worker (Center for 383 Substance Abuse Treatment, 2012).

Chronic pain management could vary depending on the adopted opioid withdrawal strategy. Upon the patient being completely weaned off any opioid analgesics, relief should be preferentially sought through the use of non-opioid analgesics and non-pharmacologic therapies. For patients receiving long-term maintenance opioid therapy, adjusting the dosage and administration rate of the opioid agonist treatment might contribute to pain relief if opioid analgesics are recommended (see part 4.2). The caregiver should use his/her knowledge to educate the patient on the chronic condition and allow them to make informed choices about care. Regardless, the management of these complex conditions

391 depends on the patient- and practitioner-defined objectives at the beginning of the follow-up, which

- 392 should avoid the utopian "zero pain" myth that often leads to inflation in the number and dosage of
- 393 prescribed molecules with subsequent iatrogenic consequences (Lee, 2016).
- All the molecules classically used for the analgesic management of chronic pain and mentioned in thisarticle are listed in Table S1 in the Supplemental files.

396 4.1 Non-opioid analgesics

This category includes acetaminophen (paracetamol), NSAIDs, and "adjuvant medications." The latter drugs are initially developed for other therapeutic indications and are found to have analgesic efficacy when administered under certain conditions and are essentially antidepressants and antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). The term "adjuvant" should not be misleading since these medications are now recommended as the first line of therapy depending on the practitioner's understanding of the mechanism and type of pain (Obata, 2017). It is important to inform the patient about the frequent need to try different "adjuvant medications" so as to determine the one with the best efficacy/tolerance ratio.

404 4.1.1 Acetaminophen

405 Acetaminophen is the most widely used analgesic in the world. Although its mechanism of action 406 remains unclear, it has been reported to involve the endocannabinoid, vanilloid, and calcium channel 407 systems, as well as the cyclooxygenase inhibition and serotonin activation (Mallet et al., 2017). 408 Acetaminophen is recommended as the first-line treatment for many painful conditions given its 409 favorable safety profile compared to other pharmacological alternatives. However, there are limited 410 studies on its efficacy against chronic pain with inconsistent results (Ennis et al., 2016), which 411 encourages its long-term use. There is an ongoing debate on its safety with regard to cardiovascular 412 and gastrointestinal bleeding risks, even at therapeutic doses (McCrae et al., 2018).

413 4.1.2 NSAIDs

NSAIDs are heterogeneous, analgesic, antipyretic, and anti-inflammatory medications that are
categorized according to their relative selectivity for inhibition of the two types of cyclooxygenase
isoenzymes (COX-2 *versus* COX-1) (Herndon and Daniels, 2018). They are known as effective

treatments for nociceptive pain and are commonly used in chronic musculoskeletal pain, especially
arthrosis. They are not recognized as effective for neuropathic and nociplastic pain (Derry et al., 2017;
Macfarlane et al., 2017; Turk et al., 2011). They are often given as short-term prescriptions seeking the
minimum effective doses based on their gastrointestinal and cardiovascular adverse effects (Ho et al.,
2018).

422 4.1.3 Antidepressants

423 Some antidepressants might have an intrinsic analgesic action regardless of their effectiveness on the initially indicated psychiatric comorbidities (Obata, 2017). The mechanism of action of this analgesic 424 425 effect remains unclear and is subject to numerous theories seeking to establish its relationship with 426 their thymic action (Nekovarova et al., 2014). The most common hypothesis involves their pain 427 modulation ability through their action on noradrenaline (norepinephrine) and serotonin transporters. 428 This reduces these neurotransmitters' reuptake, which increases their levels in the synaptic cleft. 429 Noradrenaline is believed to have the greatest involvement in the analgesic efficacy of antidepressants, 430 which occurs through the reinforcing effect of the descending inhibitory controls of the pain pathways 431 in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord (Dharmshaktu et al., 2012; Obata, 2017). 432 Not all antidepressant classes have similar efficacies and pain characteristics. Tricyclic antidepressants 433 have been shown to be effective against resistant headache, neuropathic and nociplastic pain, 434 especially fibromyalgia, with a numbers needed to treat (NNT) i.e., the number of patients who have 435 to be treated to reduce the pain intensity by 50% in 1 patient, of 3.6 (Dharmshaktu et al., 2012; 436 Jackson et al., 2010; Saarto and Wiffen, 2007). This well-studied pharmacological class was until 437 recently recommended as first-line treatment in these contexts. However, its many anticholinergic and 438 histaminergic side effects have caused its gradual replacement with serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake 439 inhibitors (SNRIs) (Baltenberger et al., 2015; Derry et al., 2015a; Moore et al., 2015). Among SNRIs, 440 venlafaxine and duloxetine have been particularly studied in the context of chronic pain. Although 441 their reported NNT varies across studies and the target pathologies, their efficacy has been found to be 442 comparable to that of tricyclic antidepressants and with increased tolerance, which allows them to be

443 used as first-line treatments for neuropathic and nociplastic chronic pain (Baltenberger et al., 2015; 444 Dharmshaktu et al., 2012; Saarto and Wiffen, 2007). Currently, milnacipran has not been reported to 445 have major efficacy against neuropathic pain; however, it sometimes demonstrates efficacy against 446 nociplastic pain (Cording et al., 2015; Derry et al., 2015b).

447 Other antidepressants, e.g., serotonin reuptake inhibitors and atypicals, lack significant efficacy 448 against chronic pain. Some studies have reported a higher efficacy compared to placebo; however, 449 these results might be related to their potential efficacy against psychiatric comorbidities associated 450 with chronic pain (see part 5). Therefore, these treatments should be reserved for patients not 451 responding to previously used antidepressants and with thymic symptomatology justifying their use 452 (Baltenberger et al., 2015; Dharmshaktu et al., 2012; Onutu et al., 2018; Patetsos and Horjales-Araujo, 453 2016; Saarto and Wiffen, 2007).

454 4.1.4 AEDs

455 AEDs have demonstrated efficacy against chronic neuropathic pain and some nociplastic pain types, 456 including fibromyalgia (Wiffen et al., 2013b). Upon central or peripheral nervous system injury, these 457 molecules reduce the hyperexcitability of somatosensory pathways responsible for neuropathic pain. 458 Although their mechanism of action remains unclear, it could involve a combination of sodium and 459 calcium channel modulation, glutamate antagonism, and enhancement of the GABA inhibitory system 460 in the peripheral and medullary pain pathways. The mechanism of action of AEDs against 461 fibromyalgia remains poorly understood (Sidhu and Sadhotra, 2016; Turk et al., 2011). Studies have 462 reported inconsistent findings regarding the efficacy of AEDs against chronic neuropathic pain; 463 however, gabapentin, pregabalin, and carbamazepine (Narain and Adcock, 2018; Wiffen et al., 2013b, 464 2014, 2017) are more commonly used than lacosamide, topiramate, oxcarbazepine, and valproic acid 465 derivatives (Gill et al., 2011; Hearn et al., 2012; Wiffen et al., 2013a; Zhou et al., 2017). 466 Tolerance to AEDs varies among patients and their side effects are mostly mild (blurred vision, 467

dizziness, asthenia, drowsiness, digestive disorders, euphoria, etc.); however, they frequently lead to

468 premature treatment discontinuation. Reports on serious adverse effects (hematological and

dermatological) remain rare (Wiffen et al., 2013b). Recent guidelines recommend gabapentin-based
AEDs as the first-line treatment for chronic neuropathic and nociplastic pain (Cruccu and Truini,
2017; Kia and Choy, 2017; Macfarlane et al., 2017; Mu et al., 2017; Sidhu and Sadhotra, 2016; Wiffen

472 et al., 2013b).

473 However, recent studies have indicated the potential for abuse and misuse of gabapentinoids,

474 particularly pregabalin, and they should be prescribed with caution in patients with a history of

475 substance use disorder (Ashwini et al., 2015; Driot et al., 2019; Gahr et al., 2013; Saini et al., 2018;

476 Sönmez, 2015; World Health Organization, 2018). Further, a recent Canadian study reported that the

477 concomitant prescription of gabapentin and opioids increased the risk of opioid overdose mortality by

478 49% (Gomes et al., 2017), which was also found for pregabalin (Gomes et al., 2018).

479 4.1.5 Other non-opioid analgesics

480 4.1.5.1 NMDA receptors antagonists

481 Studies are steadily establishing the involvement of NMDA receptors in the induction and 482 maintenance of chronic pain, particularly neuropathic pain. Initially restricted to a central painful 483 hypersensitization role, recent studies have also demonstrated a peripheral involvement (Petrenko et 484 al., 2003). Studies on NMDA receptor antagonist drugs, including ketamine, methadone, or 485 dextromethorphan, have reported that they could effectively reduce neuropathic pain in some patients 486 not responsive to conventional analgesics (Laumet et al., 2017). Moreover, this analgesic efficacy 487 could be mediated by their reduction action on OIH (see part 2.2.4) (College of Physicians and 488 Surgeons of British Columbia, 2019; Lee et al., 2011).

489 4.1.5.2 Cannabis and Cannabinoids

490 Despite being ancestral, the use of cannabis or cannabinoid derivatives remains controversial in

491 chronic pain. There are inconsistent findings regarding their specific analgesic action against pain

492 (Vučković et al., 2018). However, the findings are consistent with regard to the ability of this

493 molecules to improve certain dimensions frequently affected by chronic pain, including sleep, appetite,

494 anxiety, and the overall quality of life with the latter being considered as the main objective of

- 495 incurable chronic diseases (Andrade et al., 2019; Romero-Sandoval et al., 2017). In patients with
- 496 chronic pain and a history of POUD, the use of these potentially addictive drugs requires a proper
- 497 assessment of the benefit/risk balance and close monitoring (Vučković et al., 2018).

498 4.1.5.3 Topical agents

Topical agents might provide appropriate pharmacological options as adjuncts or alternatives to oral drugs. Their localized action limits systemic passage and the risk of drug interactions and associated adverse effects (Rudin, 2013; Stanos and Galluzzi, 2013). Their efficacy limits or reduces opioid analgesic use, which is of interest to patients with POUD history. Topical analgesics commonly used for chronic pain treatment are (Derry et al., 2016; Rudin, 2013; Stanos and Galluzzi, 2013):

Lidocaine, a local anesthetic that blocks fiber Aδ and C to reduce neuropathic pain, which is
 mainly validated for postherpetic neuralgia with good efficacy and tolerance;

506 - NSAIDs patches, which are indicated for osteoarthritis disorders with good efficacy and tolerance;

507 - Capsaicin, an alkaloid responsible for the chili pepper burning sensation whose repeated or high

508 concentration application leads to desensitization of nociceptive fibers in the epidermis with

509 possible reversal of damage nerve fiber degeneration. Capsaicin patches have been mainly found

510 to be effective for neuropathic pain, particularly post-herpetic or HIV-related pain.

511 4.1.5.4 Skeletal muscle relaxants

512 Botulinum toxin injections into spastic muscles cause denervation with subsequent myorelaxation. The 513 exact mechanism underlying the resulting pain relief remains unclear. There remains debate on several 514 theories suggesting purely myorelaxation-related relief, modulation of some pain-related peptides, or 515 brain circulation improvement in some pathologies where it is suspected to be the cause of pain 516 (Qerama et al., 2010). The effectiveness of botulinum toxin injections is inconsistent across pain 517 etiologies and seems to fade over time for some patients (Attal et al., 2016; Guzman et al., 2016; Park 518 and Park, 2017; Rivera Día et al., 2014). Therefore, it seems appropriate to remain cautious about this 519 therapeutic option and it cannot be considered as a first-line option in the absence of further studies.

520 **4.2 Opioid analgesics**

521 A history of substance use disorders, including for opioids, is not a formal contraindication for opioid analgesic use necessary for acute or chronic pain management (Savage et al., 2008). Although the 522 523 opioid prescription should be balanced against the associated risks, the equally harmful opiophobia 524 should be avoided (Bennett and Carr, 2002). Opioid analgesic use might be appropriate for managing 525 painful exacerbations regardless of the patient's history. However, it is necessary to consider the 526 prescribing context to limit the patient's risk exposure. It might be preferable to choose a sustained-527 release galenic to limit the peak effect, which might have some psychoactive side effects, or to choose 528 an abuse-deterrent formulation to control and allow the use of the drug (Allain et al., 2015; Litman et 529 al., 2018; Salwan et al., 2018; Webster and Fine, 2010). The prescriber should seek the minimum 530 effective dose and shortest prescription period with careful monitoring of the treatment's tolerance and 531 effectiveness (see Table 2).

In case withdrawal becomes necessary, POUD management involving long-term substitution with an opioid agonist can be divided into several daily doses to maintain its analgesic effect. In addition to their 24-h substitutive action, these drugs have an additional analgesic effect that might be of interest in a chronic pain context (College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia, 2019; Khanna and Pillarisetti, 2015).

537 Regarding methadone, its expected analgesic action occurs at 6 hours from the beginning of treatment 538 and after 8 hours when plasma concentrations have stabilized (College of Physicians and Surgeons of 539 British Columbia, 2019; O'Donnell and Vogenberg, 2011; Rajan and Scott-Warren, 2016). The 540 pharmacological characteristics of methadone have several advantages in chronic pain. First, it is a 541 complete opioid agonist, indicating that it can be initiated in conjunction with existing opioid 542 treatment (except for partial agonists such as buprenorphine), including fast-acting drugs for managing 543 painful paroxysms. However, very gradual methadone titration is necessary ("start low, go slow") 544 given its pharmacology, which requires spaced out dose increases to allow stabilization of plasma

concentrations. This precaution significantly improves tolerance and reduces overdose risk (Chou etal., 2014; Hawley et al., 2017; Rajan and Scott-Warren, 2016).

547 Management of patients with chronic pain treated with buprenorphine (+/- naloxone), a partial opioid 548 receptor agonist, should consider its atypical pharmacological characteristics. Buprenorphine 549 contraindicates any concomitant use of another opioid and is usually used alone to manage both 550 baseline and paroxysmal pain except for very specific emergency situations requiring strong analgesia 551 for major acute pain and under strict supervision by an experienced physician. It is often necessary to 552 split buprenorphine treatment into 3-4 daily doses with an average analgesic efficacy of 6 hours with 553 doses lower than those used in a substitutive indication (Fishman and Kim, 2018; Khanna and 554 Pillarisetti, 2015). Buprenorphine appears to have a better safety profile given its ceiling effect that 555 limits the risk of respiratory depression without losing its analgesic effect, which allows safe dose 556 increases and its use patients at risk of respiratory depression (Dahan et al., 2006; Davis, 2012; 557 Khanna and Pillarisetti, 2015). Moreover, buprenorphine has been reported to be effective in OIH 558 through mechanisms involving kappa-opioid receptor mechanisms (Aiyer et al., 2018; Chen et al., 559 2014; Khanna and Pillarisetti, 2015).

560 **4.3 Non-pharmacologic therapies**

561 Taking into account all the biopsychosocial dimensions affected by pain, a holistic approach allows 562 comprehensive addressing of the patient's overall functional alterations and the effects on his/her daily 563 quality of life. The occasionally flawed efficacy and tolerance of pharmacological analgesic therapies 564 might require the use of complementary non-pharmacological approaches. Some of these approaches, 565 which are insufficiently validated, are not financially supported by the health systems. However, they 566 seem to provide a real benefit to patients in terms of perceived quality of life. Their financial cost 567 should be considered, especially for patients most at risk of financial insecurity, including patients 568 with chronic pain with associated comorbidities.

There are numerous so-called "non-drug," "alternative," or "integrative" therapies that come from
different specialties. There are guidelines that encourage their use in chronic pain management (Arena

and Jump, 2012; Dowell et al., 2016; Skelly et al., 2018). These recommendations are especially
relevant for patients with a substance use disorder history who require alternative strategies to avoid
the prescription of addictive drugs. These non-pharmacological approaches can be broadly grouped
into several large categories (Bruckenthal, 2010). We only discuss the main ones here.

575 4.3.1 Neuromodulation

576 Neuromodulation involves invasive or non-invasive nervous system stimulation (central and/or 577 peripheral) by sending electrical stimuli to alter its activity for pain modulation (Costa et al., 2019; 578 Deer et al., 2019). Spinal cord stimulation is an invasive method that involves electric current 579 application through electrodes implanted in the posterior horn of the spinal cord to modulate pain 580 signals in the brain's pain pathways. The underlying mechanism of action remains unclear. The 581 various parameters (amplitude, pulse width, and frequency) can be adjusted to achieve the desired 582 effect. There are other implantable stimulation techniques that allow nerve conduction modulation at 583 the peripheral level through electrode implantation near the damaged peripheral nerves. Although their 584 effectiveness is inconsistent, these techniques are usually well-tolerated despite some described cases 585 of efficacy loss due to a tolerance phenomenon developing over time (Costa et al., 2019; Deer et al., 586 2019; Fishman et al., 2019; Nayak and Banik, 2018).

587 Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation is a common analgesic technique that involves the 588 application of a low-intensity electric current using electrodes applied to the skin near the painful area. 589 This electrical stimulation could reduce pain by activating the descending inhibitory pain pathways 590 through partially elucidated mechanisms. Despite its inconsistent efficacy, its good tolerance, low cost, 591 and user-friendliness make it a recommended option for suitable patients (Gibson et al., 2019; Vance 592 et al., 2014).

593 4.3.2 Evidence-based psychotherapies

594 Supportive psychotherapy is a commonly used strategy by therapists dealing with patients with

595 chronic pain. It involves empathetic and unreserved validation of the patient's daily life difficulties

596 (Songer, 2005). Its aim is to highlight the patient's difficulties and to strengthen the therapeutic

alliance without attempting in-depth modification of the patient's psychological functioning. Other
more specific psychotherapeutic techniques have been shown to be effective in the chronic pain
context and might reduce pharmacological therapy use.

600 Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) is designed to help patients identify their cognitive distortions and 601 negative behaviors when confronted with a problematic situation. Subsequently, using practical 602 symptom-focused exercises, the therapist assists the patient to improve their emotion regulation and 603 implement adaptation strategies for the initially identified situations. CBT follows relatively 604 standardized protocols that allow its reproducibility and involves assessing the patient's progress 605 during therapy. These characteristics allowed its scientific validation when the method was being 606 expanded for public implementation. The application of this brief therapy in patients with chronic pain 607 disorders could be perfectly integrated into a holistic management approach. CBT works to ameliorate 608 pain-related disability by redirecting the patient's thoughts toward the positive aspects of his or her 609 life. Moreover, it provides support for the management of associated comorbidities (Lim et al., 2018; 610 Urits et al., 2019).

611 Other psycho-behavioral approaches, including acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and 612 mindfulness, are derived from CBT and constitute its third wave (Hayes and Hofmann, 2017). ACT 613 aims to improve the patients' psychological flexibility to allow distancing from and restricting of 614 negative emotions. This allows the patient to free their attention from the pain and avoid its 615 reappearance. Mindfulness exercises are frequently used in ACT to address chronic pain with greater 616 care and detachment. Although it has only been partially validated, these innovative psychotherapeutic 617 approaches represent a valid alternative to CBT for chronic pain management and/or associated 618 comorbidities (Spijkerman et al., 2016; Thorn, 2017; Veehof et al., 2016).

619 4.3.3 Other complementary approaches

620 WHO defines these approaches as follows: a broad set of healthcare practices that are not part of that

621 country's own tradition or conventional medicine and are not fully integrated into the dominant

healthcare system (World Health Organization, 2013). The wide variety of approaches means that they

cannot be exhaustively mentioned; however, they can be grouped into the following four main
categories (Bauer et al., 2016; Bruckenthal, 2010; Lee and Raja, 2011):

Biological-based practices: naturopathy, micro-nutritional, dietary and vitamin supplements, etc.
Manual therapies: chiropractic, osteopathy, massage, acupuncture, etc.
Mind-body therapies: sophrology, yoga, tai-chi, hypnosis, etc. Although the overall efficacy of
hypnotherapy is still insufficiently validated, recent studies have demonstrated it could be a
feasible therapeutic option for patients with chronic pain. Further, this practice is commonly used
as a tool in CBT and the subsequent third wave approaches (Elkins et al., 2007; Jensen and
Patterson, 2014).

632 There are obvious overlapping areas between some therapies belonging to several categories. Traditional medicines (e.g., Chinese, Ayurvedic, etc.) can be used as holistic and individualized 633 634 approaches. However, since they have not been scientifically validated, they cannot be clinically 635 advised. Optimally, these alternative approaches should be conducted by a health professional with validated quality training. Regardless, patients with complex conditions require care management that 636 637 integrates the validated scientific literature as much as possible, in accordance with the principles of 638 evidence-based medicine and medical ethics. Therefore, caregivers have a role of preventing these 639 vulnerable patients from turning to non-validated care, which is sometimes comparable to sectarian 640 abuses.

641 4.3.4 Therapeutic education of patients

Therapeutic education of patients aims to help patients with chronic diseases to optimally manage their lives. These workshops are led by health professionals who use the so-called "reverse" pedagogical techniques to obtain patient/caregiver knowledge. Through mobilization of knowledge, resources, and questions regarding their chronic pathology, the patients are allowed to work on their change resistance and play an active role in their care, as well as regain control over their pathology. The application of these techniques to chronic pain has been shown to be effective and facilitates both the therapeutic alliance and patient compliance with management (Geneen et al., 2015; Vargas-Schafferand Cogan, 2014).

650 4.3.5. Physical activity

651 Patients have long been advised to rest in order to avoid increasing an underlying physical lesion that 652 could increase their pain. However, as knowledge about pain and its consequences have increased, it 653 has become clear that continued physical activity does not increase pain (Geneen et al., 2017), while 654 stopping physical activity is more likely to lead to desocialization, physical deconditioning, and even 655 kinesiophobia, or fear of movement, defined as "an excessive, irrational and debilitating fear to carry 656 out a physical movement, due to a feeling of vulnerability to a painful injury or reinjury" (Knapik et 657 al., 2011). A decrease in the patient's perceived quality of life now makes it advisable to continue 658 physical activity adapted to their abilities and painful feelings rather than to avoid physical activity 659 altogether (Geneen et al., 2017; Luque-Suarez et al., 2019; Puljak and Arienti, 2019).

660 5. HOLISTIC PATIENT MANAGEMENT (Table 4)

Patients with chronic pain frequently present associated comorbid disorders, which are sometimes associated with POUD development (Richard, 2019). These conditions must be identified and treated in candidate patients for opioid prescriptions. Therefore, it is essential to thoroughly interview these patients with complex conditions (see Table 2).

665 There is a strong association between chronic pain and psychiatric disorders, particularly mood, anxiety, and sleep disorders; however, they remain under-treated in this population (Barry et al., 666 667 2016). They have two-way associations, which are underpinned by common morphological and 668 functional alterations (Howe and Sullivan, 2014; Yalcin and Barrot, 2014). It is important to carefully 669 screen for them to avoid unfocused and delayed care. Pain can be prodromal to an emerging 670 depressive syndrome, which leads the therapist to adopt a single analgesic management strategy. This 671 perspective is particularly inappropriate since patients with psychiatric disorders are already at a 672 higher risk of becoming dependent on the opioid prescription (Goesling et al., 2018). From the alternate perspective, the negative effect of chronic pain on the patient's quality of life might lead to 673

secondary psychiatric comorbidity development (Goesling et al., 2018). Central sleep disorders, which
are associated with opioid use rather than psychiatric comorbidity, also have an impact on the overall
perceived quality of life; therefore, they should be assessed through functional exploration (Rose et al.,
2014).

678 Many patients with chronic pain have post-traumatic stress disorder. The high prevalence of this 679 comorbidity among these patients can be explained by the high frequency of serious accidents or 680 injuries in the life histories of these patients, which can cause both pain and post-traumatic stress 681 disorder. Each of these disorders reminds the patient of the other's presence, which reinforces 682 hypervigilance toward both pain and traumatic events and complicates the patient's management 683 (Brennstuhl et al., 2015; Morasco et al., 2013; Richard, 2019). Eye movement desensitization and 684 reprocessing techniques have shown to be effective in the management of this type of comorbid 685 condition (Valiente-Gómez et al., 2017).

686 Addictive behaviors are frequently associated with both psychiatric disorders and chronic pain.

687 Chronic pain increases the risk of substance use disorder by two- to five-fold (Howe and Sullivan,

688 2014). These non-opioid substance use disorder must be carefully screened since they constitute risk

factors for POUD installation and impede the patient's clinical progress (Barry et al., 2016; Richard,
2019).

691 Clinical detection of these comorbidities might be difficult since these syndromes are less

692 straightforward than the described traditional clinical expressions. Their different symptoms might

693 potentiate, mix, or fade after interaction with the patient's other pathologies. This might lead to the

management of "co-occurring disorders," which are frequent in psychiatry and addictology, with the

695 inclusion of the chronic pain pathology (see Figure 1 in Supplemental files) (Edlund et al., 2013;

Flynn and Brown, 2008; Murthy and Chand, 2012; Roncero et al., 2017). The practitioner is faced

- 697 with a medley of symptoms that are difficult to discriminate across the different syndromes. Therefore,
- 698 it is important to go beyond the conventional care framework involving independent management of
- 699 each syndrome. These could involve integrative and simultaneous management where each symptom
- dimension is treated by freeing oneself from the referred syndrome(s) (Cuthbert, 2014; Dematteis and

Pennel, 2018; Roncero et al., 2017; Woody, 1996). This holistic approach is limited by the fact that
relapse in one dimension might cause a relapse in others. Therefore, there is a need for close and
comprehensive patient follow-up involving a multidisciplinary team (Kelly and Daley, 2013). Lacking
management of comorbidities associated with chronic pain results in chronicization and exacerbation
of pain intensity, which increases the consumption of medical goods (consultations, hospitalizations,
additional examinations, travel vouchers, and treatments) and the concomitant cost increase; further, it
contributes to a decreased quality of life (Howe and Sullivan, 2014; Roncero et al., 2017).

708 Holistic management not only focuses on the pathology itself but also on the patient as a whole. The 709 patient can rarely achieve relief by only using drugs, regardless of their dosage. This perspective is 710 particularly relevant in chronic diseases where stabilization, rather than cure, as well as improved 711 overall quality of life, is sought. Therefore, there is a need for a precise assessment of the patient's 712 social situation (Kelly and Daley, 2013; National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Guideline, 713 2016; Roncero et al., 2017). This is because patients with chronic pain, *a fortiori* those with 714 psychiatric or addictive comorbidities, are frequently faced with a lower than average socio-economic 715 situation and quality of life. These factors can be assessed using scales (Hadi et al., 2019; Marmot et 716 al., 2012; Vartiainen et al., 2016; Webster et al., 2019). The onset of a chronic pain disorder often 717 results in productivity loss and impeded professional activity, which can lead the patient to a 718 precarious livelihood (Dueñas et al., 2016; Patel et al., 2012). A social audit ensures that all the social 719 procedures are properly conducted with anticipation of socio-economic changes to the patients. Social 720 improvement contributes to the patient's psychological well-being and is an objective factor for care 721 progression. The social worker can act as an interface with public service institutions, which might 722 have complex functioning from the patient's perspective (Findley, 2014). This is especially important 723 for ensuring equitable access to care in a clinical setting where opioid analgesic use must be reduced 724 or avoided. Further, this might require the practitioner to use alternative non-pharmacological 725 therapies (see 4.3) whose costs might not be covered by the health system (May et al., 2018; Webster 726 et al., 2019). The intervention of occupational therapists and medicine is an interesting alternative for

728 return to work (Désiron et al., 2011; Hesselstrand et al., 2015; Hill, 2016; Lagueux et al., 2018). 729 Implementation of a holistic care framework requires patient-assisted identification of realistic and 730 possibly quantifiable objectives for care since management onset. These objectives allow for the 731 proposal of a treatment plan that provides a reference guide for the practitioner to avoid "getting lost" 732 in the chronic, complex, multidisciplinary management (Dowell et al., 2016). Moreover, this reference 733 can facilitate the end of the management or discontinuation of some drugs by avoiding an 734 unreasonable therapeutic overstatement and its iatrogenic consequences (World Health Organization, 735 1994). The general practitioner is at the pivot of this system and allows for care coordination. A 736 fundamental principle is defining "who prescribes what." The most efficient solution is setting up a 737 healthcare service protocol for managing the patient with a pre-determined prescribing doctor and a 738 dispensing pharmacy, which is similar to the management of opioid substitution treatments in

allowing adaptation to the patient's workstation and avoid professional disinsertion or allow one to

727

addiction (Bertin et al., 2019). This care protocol allows avoiding of nomadic medical behavior and
quick detection of overuse. This measure is not intended to be coercive; rather, it prevents
complications associated with potential treatment misuse and compliance can be improved through
prior therapeutic education of the patient.

743 From a pharmacological perspective, the co-existence of comorbid pathologies brings a risk of drug 744 inflation, involving different molecules and doses, which should be avoided. This risk is increased if 745 the intervention involves different specialists with different perspectives on the patient. Therefore, 746 effective communication among all the stakeholders and the patient is important to agree on drugs that 747 simultaneously improve several symptom dimensions and limit adverse effects. In patients with a 748 POUD history, there is a need to prevent the risk of dependence and misuse. For example, using an 749 SNRI-type antidepressant could be more relevant than an AED in conjunction with benzodiazepines in 750 a chronic neuropathic pain context associated with the depressive syndrome. Taken together, any 751 treatment started should be regularly evaluated for tolerance and efficacy to avoid the introduction of 752 multiple drugs prescriptions that could be potentially ineffective but with cumulative iatrogenic effects 753 (Aronson, 2006; Dowell et al., 2016; Webster and Fine, 2010; World Health Organization, 1994).

754 The patient's optimism, which refers to unreserved and unstignatized pain recognition, as well as the 755 caregivers' empathy, are new factors that could be involved in the positive evolution of the patient's 756 pain symptomatology. These new approaches require further exploration; however, they appear to 757 allow easy implementation and good therapeutic alliance, which are essential for compliance with care (Cánovas et al., 2018; Cohen et al., 2011; Finset and Ørnes, 2017; Koole and Tschacher, 2016). 758 759 Holistic management aims to offer the most personalized approach possible to the patient. Therefore, 760 this principle of care evolves over time based on medical advances, social support evolution, and 761 technological progress. The latter provides an interesting possibility for real-life monitoring of the 762 patient's evolution using e- and m-health tools (Luxton et al., 2011; Moss et al., 2019). This real-time 763 approach could potentially allow the patient immediate online access to non-medicinal tools through 764 smartphones, including virtual reality modules, musicotherapy, therapeutic education, meditation, etc. 765 These tools could further relieve the patient's symptoms by avoiding or reducing the associated

766 medication intake.

767 6. CONCLUSION

768 Chronic pain management could be complicated by substance use disorder history of one of the used 769 pharmacological classes. Without formalized recommendations, the proposed holistic management 770 (see key points in Table 4) could allow transcending from the conventional care framework, which 771 involves specifically treating each individual pathology, to the global management of all the 772 dimensions affected both by the main pathology and associated comorbidities. This requires that 773 practitioners are able to identify and manage all comorbidities, which generally involves setting up a 774 coordinated, multidisciplinary, and language-shared care network that is tailored for the patient. By 775 taking into account all the dimensions affected by the patient's comorbid conditions, this network aims 776 to improve the overall perceived quality of life by limiting drug inflation.

777 Funding:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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Figure captions (in Supplemental files):

Figure 1. Co-occurring disorders, 4-valent model

1406 **Tables:**

Table 1. Definitions of the different types of analgesic opioid use disorders

Tolerance:

Physiological adaptation mechanism developed by the organism when confronted with the regular administration of an exogenous substance, leading to habituation to its effects and subsequent progressive loss of efficacy and a need for increased doses to maintain the expected effect.

Pharmacodependence:

State of adaptation of a patient whereby the body has restored its equilibrium to the exogenous substance and is no longer regularly and/or quantitatively supplied, leading to the characteristic appearance of an unpleasant physical and psychological sensation, called withdrawal syndrome.

Withdrawal syndrome:

Unpleasant physical and mental manifestations of inconstant severity and duration, which occur when the substance is in insufficient quantity. In the case of an opioid, classic clinical signs typically include one or more of the following symptoms: lacrimation; rhinorrhea and sneezing; yawning; hot and cold flushes; sweating and piloerection; craving; anxiety; restlessness and irritability; disturbed sleep; gastrointestinal tract symptoms; muscle, bone, and joint aches and pains; headache; muscle cramps; and tremor.

Opioid use disorder:

Dimensional diagnosis which appeared in the 5th edition of the DSM-5, regrouping the categorical notions of dependence, abuse and addiction of the previous edition, characterized by the identification of personal, social, and professional consequences of repeated to compulsive opioid use.

Prescribed opioid use disorder:

Diagnostic nomenclature specific to this work, partially validating the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria of opioid use disorder, of which it could constitute a subtype, where the incriminated substance is prescribed and dispensed for a validated clinical situation, but whose use persists for reasons other than those which led to the initial prescription.

Misuse:

Clinical concept sufficiently broad to encompass most of the aberrant prescribed opioid uses, including individuals who do not meet the criteria for substance use disorder or dependence, referring to all uses other than those for which the drug was prescribed or indicated. "Abuse" occasionally has a similar definition but preferentially refers to non-therapeutic substance use.

Addiction:

A primary, chronic, neurobiological disease with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors that influence its development and manifestations. Substance addiction is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving (American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2001).

Craving:

Recent clinical concept, pathognomonic of addiction, characterized by an intense and compulsive desire to use a substance or engage in hedonic behaviors. Persistence of craving is correlated with the risk of relapse of the substance use disorder.

Pseudo-addiction:

Pseudo-addiction refers to the aberrant use of prescribed analgesic treatments by a patient with inadequately managed pain. In this context, pseudo-addiction disappears upon the improvement of analgesic management (Greene and Chambers, 2015; Webster and Fine, 2010)

DSM-5: Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - 5th edition

Table 2. Key points of opioid prescription in chronic pain patients

Start of care - before any opioid prescription

- Careful screening for associated comorbidities, particularly psychiatric and addictive;
- If appropriate, use screening or misuse risk assessment scales (POMI and ORT scales);
- Define precise and ideally quantifiable management objectives;
- Inform the patient about the expected benefits and potential risks, including drug dependence

Start of care - in case of active opioid prescriptions

- Previous items, to which are added:
- Find out who is the opioid prescriber;
- Search for the reason and initial date of opioid prescription;
- Evaluate the effectiveness and clinical relevance of maintaining treatment;
- Systematic screening for potential misuse (POMI scale);
- Screening for opioid analgesic drug dependence.

When opioid is prescribed

- Ensure that the previous items have been completed.
- Prescribe for the shortest possible time, seeking the minimum dosage;
- Do not "under-prescribe", at the risk of being ineffective: "Neither too much, nor too little";
- Promote sustained-release formulations;
- Anticipate deprescribing by informing the patient about the potential factors for stopping the prescription;
- Inform the multidisciplinary team of the justified modification of the care;
- Depending on the situation, protocolization of prescriptions: "Who prescribes what'? ».

After the opioid prescription

- Check the effectiveness and relevance of the treatment at each consultation;
- Confront the benefit/risk ratio of opioid treatment with the objectives initially set;
- Always look for the minimum dosage;
- Evaluate tolerance and compliance at each visit;
- Evaluate the occurrence of drug dependence or prescription opioid use disorder at each consultation;
- If appropriate, repeat the rating of the POMI scale.

POMI: Prescription opioid misuse index; ORT: Opioid risk tool

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Table 3. Main characteristics of the different mechanisms of chronic pain

Туре	of	pain
- JPC	UI	Pam

		Type of pain	
	Neuropathic	Nociplastic	Nociceptive
Mechanism(s)	Direct consequence of a lesion or disease affecting the somatosensory system.	Consequence of a supposed alteration in the mechanisms regulating nociception, in the absence of actual or potential damage to the tissue or somatosensory system.	Persistent activation of pain receptors at the ends of nerve fibers, caused by inflammation or mechanical damage to the tissue.
Symptomatology	Various symptoms, frequently: shooting pain, burning sensation, numbness, altered sensitivity and/or sensations that are difficult to describe.	Various and complex clinical presentations; frequently hyperalgesic and allodynic widespread pain.	Function of underlying etiology; often 'mechanical' (triggered and aggravated by movement, soothed by rest).
Pharmacologic Treatment(s)	Classical painkillers (acetaminophen and NSAIDs) are of low efficacy; relative efficacy of some antidepressants (tricyclic and serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors); gabapentinoid antiepileptics; topical preparations.	Function of the clinical presentation; conventional painkillers are not effective in the long term; avoid opioids (unfavorable risk/benefit balance).	Efficacy of conventional painkillers; long-term use of opioids is questionable (negative risk/benefit balance).
Examples	Peripheral neuropathies: lumbar radiculopathies; postherpetic neuralgia; diabetic neuropathies, HIV-related or post- surgery, etc. Central neuropathies: post- cerebrovascular accident; post-traumatic (spinal cord injury); multiple sclerosis; neurological and metabolic pathologies, etc.	Glossodynia; cluster or tension headaches; irritable bowel syndrome; fibromyalgia; Complex regional pain syndrome, etc.	Rheumatic joint pain (osteoarthritis, arthritis, rheumatoid polyarthritis); chronic low back pain; tendinopathies; bursitis, etc.

NSAIDs: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus

Table 4. Key points of holistic care

- Consideration of all dimensions impacted by the main pathology, but also all associated comorbidities;
- Multidisciplinary and simultaneous care;
- Shared-language of the different stakeholders;
- Personalization of care as close as possible to the patient's needs;
- Primary objective: overall improvement of the patient's perceived quality of life.

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