



A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 4 Issue 4—October 2010

FDA Approves Vivitrol for Treatment of Opioid Dependence

Monthly injections of naltrexone (Vivitrol) have been approved for treating alcohol dependence since 2006. This month, the FDA gave the go-ahead for marketing it as the first non-maintenance medication to treat opioid dependence. Read the full story [here](#).

Buprenorphine in the News

Domestic and world news about buprenorphine

[Buprenorphine Expands Access to Addiction Treatment](#). Kristina Fiore. ABC News. October 12, 2010.

[Opioid substitution therapy being promoted in Manipur to check drug abuse](#). Aarti Dhar. The Hindu. October 3, 2010.

[Project defends its need to let clients take away lethal drug](#). Chantelle Rees. South Wales Evening Post. September 29, 2010.

Research Update

Mouse-over for abstract

Opioid dependence - management in general practice. Frei M. Aust Fam Physician. 2010 Aug;39(8): 548-52. PMID:20877747. ([Free article](#).)

Revised dose schema of sublingual buprenorphine in the treatment of the neonatal opioid abstinence syndrome. Kraft WK, Dysart K, Greenspan JS, Gibson E, Kaltenbach K, Ehrlich ME. Addiction. 2010 Oct 6. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 20925688

Erectile dysfunction in opioid users: lack of association with serum testosterone. Cioe PA, Friedmann PD, Stein MD. J Addict Dis. 2010 Oct;29(4):455-60. PMID: 20924881

Safety and tolerability of the switch from buprenorphine to buprenorphine/naloxone in an Italian addiction treatment centre. Stimolo C, Favero VD, Zecchinato G, Buson R, Cusin D, Pellachin P, Simonetto P. Clin Drug Investig. 2010;30 Suppl 1:27-31. PMID: 20450243

Upcoming Trainings

December 1, 2010. Boca Raton, Florida. Sponsored by AAAP. Click [here](#) for more info.

As always, the following web-based trainings are always available:

[American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry \(AAAP\)](#)

[American Society of Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\)](#)

[American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#)

Frequently Asked Question:

Is it feasible to treat patients who are homeless with buprenorphine?

Yes. This is the conclusion from a pertinent study:

“Despite homeless opioid dependent patients' social instability, greater comorbidities, and more chronic drug use, office-based opioid treatment with buprenorphine was effectively implemented in this population comparable to outcomes in housed patients with respect to treatment failure, illicit opioid use, and utilization of substance abuse treatment.”

Alford, DP, et al. Treating Homeless Opioid Dependent Patients with Buprenorphine in an Office-Based Setting. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2007 Feb;22(2):171-176.

Source: Buprenorphine Initiative in the VA Resource Guide