Characterizing Smokers and Non-Smokers among Opioid-Dependent Treatment Seekers

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INTRODUCTION

- America’s opioid epidemic continues to exact a devastating toll on individuals and communities, driving increasing rates of overdose and premature death and imposing an estimated $78.5 billion economic burden (Florence et al., 2016; Gomes et al., 2018; Scholl et al., 2019).

- Opioid users are significantly more likely to smoke than the general population, with 73-76% smoking on average (Guydish et al., 2011; Parker et al., 2020). They also have a significantly lower quit rate (10%) than the general population (48%; Parker et al., 2020).

- Smoking has been related to higher severity of anxiety, increased likelihood of heroin use, more education achieved (Moura et al., 2019; Yoon et al., 2015), and rural residence (Coughlin et al., 2019). Smoking severity, as measured by cigarettes per day, is also related to a lower likelihood of quitting smoking, less education achieved (DuNah et al., 2019), and more depressive symptoms (Kenney & Holahan, 2008).

- In the present data, we sought to compare psychiatric severity, drug use, pain severity and other characteristics among opioid-dependent smokers vs. non-smokers.

METHODS

- Opioid-dependent adults entering a randomized trial evaluating Interim Buprenorphine Treatment (§) for addictions (Florence et al., 2016; Gomes et al., 2018; Scholl et al., 2019).

Smokers vs. Non-Smokers

- There were no significant associations between smokers’ CPD and gender, race, education, BAI, BDI, or any of the pain indices ($p > 0.05$). However, there was a strong relationship between participants’ smoking severity and their psychological distress as measured at study intake (Table 2). More specifically, we observed a significant positive association between smokers’ CPD and:
  - 8 out of 9 BSI subscales
  - Total General Severity Index (Figure 1)
  - Positive Symptom Total (Figure 2)
  - Positive Symptom Distress (Figure 3)

- Rural smokers reported significantly more cigarettes per day than non-rural smokers, $t = 2.68, p = 0.009$. Table 2. Brief Symptom Inventory

RESULTS

- Within Current Smokers

- There were no significant associations between smokers’ CPD and gender, race, education, BAI, BDI, or any of the pain indices ($p > 0.05$).

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SELECTED REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was a secondary analysis of a study supported in part by NIDA (RO1DA042790, R34DA037385, T32 DA007242), and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.