Tramadol and other Opioid Use among Individuals with Substance Use Disorders in Lagos, Nigeria

Simone Udeh, M.S.1, Chinene Umeche B.Pharm2, GIWA Winifred Damilola B.Pharm3, Oluribigbe Deborah Moyinoluwa B.Pharm2, Ogbonna Jude Ebuka B.Pharm2, OTUJO Ifeoluwasubomi Victoria B.Pharm2

1 Drexel University College of Medicine
2 Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract

Using a drug misuse questionnaire, participants at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lagos were surveyed for their pattern of drug use. A total of 88 responses were received with 62 respondents reporting use of opioid-containing products (70.5%). Of the 62 respondents, tramadol use was reported among 35 (56.5%) participants. 7 (11.3%) respondents also reported using pentazocine for recreational purposes, while 49 (79%) respondents reported using codeine-containing products. In all, 14 (22.6%) respondents reported getting the opioids from a retail pharmacy, 11 (17.7%) from family/friends, 29 (46.8%) from a drug dealer, 3 (4.8%) from the hospital pharmacy and 6 (9.7%) from a patent medicine store.

Introduction

In Nigeria, opioids are commonly misused in large quantities and are of major concern to physicians due to the debilitating effects on the user’s health. A drug use survey by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2018 found that 14.4% of Nigerians between ages 15-64 abused drugs; a percentage that is more than two times higher than the global average of 5.6%, with cannabis being the most abused among women (mainly Tramadol followed by codeine and heroin) (United Nations 2019).

The mean age of initiation of non-medical use of opioids was 21 years (Cynthia, 2018). While the use of drugs is observed among all age groups in Nigeria, the use of most drug use types is high among young people within age brackets of 25 and 39 years (UNODC,2018). Nearly 90% of the high-risk drug users had been regularly using opioids, while the remaining had either used cocaine or amphetamines; and over 20% of the high-risk drug users were injecting drugs (IBBSS,2014).

This study seeks to assess the patterns of opioid misuse among individuals with substance use disorders, in Lagos, Nigeria using a drug misuse questionnaire.

Methods

The study was a pilot prospective cohort study on adult and pediatric populations. In this study, participants completed a series of questions regarding their opioid use. The questionnaire is brief and designed to be completed in under 15 minutes to prevent participant burnout. Participants included patients in both in-patient and out-patient units of the Psychiatric Hospital in Lagos. The questionnaire was in paper form and administered by the study team. In administering the questionnaire, each question will be read out along with its responses and the participant will select the response that applies to them.

Results

Using a drug misuse questionnaire, participants at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lagos were surveyed for their pattern of drug use. A total of 88 responses were received with 62 respondents reporting use of opioid-containing products (70.5%). Of the 62 respondents, tramadol use was reported among 35 (56.5%) participants. 7 (11.3%) respondents also reported using pentazocine for recreational purposes, while 49 (79%) respondents reported using codeine-containing products. In all, 14 (22.6%) respondents reported getting the opioids from a retail pharmacy, 11 (17.7%) from family/friends, 29 (46.8%) from a drug dealer, 3 (4.8%) from the hospital pharmacy and 6 (9.7%) from a patent medicine store.

Introduction

In Nigeria, opioids are commonly misused in large quantities and are of major concern to physicians due to the debilitating effects on the user’s health. A drug use survey by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2018 found that 14.4% of Nigerians between ages 15-64 abused drugs; a percentage that is more than two times higher than the global average of 5.6%, with cannabis being the most abused among women (mainly Tramadol followed by codeine and heroin) (United Nations 2019).

The mean age of initiation of non-medical use of opioids was 21 years (Cynthia, 2018). While the use of drugs is observed among all age groups in Nigeria, the use of most drug use types is high among young people within age brackets of 25 and 39 years (UNODC,2018). Nearly 90% of the high-risk drug users had been regularly using opioids, while the remaining had either used cocaine or amphetamines; and over 20% of the high-risk drug users were injecting drugs (IBBSS,2014).

This study seeks to assess the patterns of opioid misuse among individuals with substance use disorders, in Lagos, Nigeria using a drug misuse questionnaire.

Methods

The study was a pilot prospective cohort study on adult and pediatric populations. In this study, participants completed a series of questions regarding their opioid use. The questionnaire is brief and designed to be completed in under 15 minutes to prevent participant burnout. Participants included patients in both in-patient and out-patient units of the Psychiatric Hospital in Lagos. The questionnaire was in paper form and administered by the study team. In administering the questionnaire, each question will be read out along with its responses and the participant will select the response that applies to them.

Results

Using a drug misuse questionnaire, participants at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Lagos were surveyed for their pattern of drug use. A total of 88 responses were received with 62 respondents reporting use of opioid-containing products (70.5%). Of the 62 respondents, tramadol use was reported among 35 (56.5%) participants. 7 (11.3%) respondents also reported using pentazocine for recreational purposes, while 49 (79%) respondents reported using codeine-containing products. In all, 14 (22.6%) respondents reported getting the opioids from a retail pharmacy, 11 (17.7%) from family/friends, 29 (46.8%) from a drug dealer, 3 (4.8%) from the hospital pharmacy and 6 (9.7%) from a patent medicine store.

Introduction

In Nigeria, opioids are commonly misused in large quantities and are of major concern to physicians due to the debilitating effects on the user’s health. A drug use survey by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2018 found that 14.4% of Nigerians between ages 15-64 abused drugs; a percentage that is more than two times higher than the global average of 5.6%, with cannabis being the most abused among women (mainly Tramadol followed by codeine and heroin) (United Nations 2019).

The mean age of initiation of non-medical use of opioids was 21 years (Cynthia, 2018). While the use of drugs is observed among all age groups in Nigeria, the use of most drug use types is high among young people within age brackets of 25 and 39 years (UNODC,2018). Nearly 90% of the high-risk drug users had been regularly using opioids, while the remaining had either used cocaine or amphetamines; and over 20% of the high-risk drug users were injecting drugs (IBBSS,2014).

This study seeks to assess the patterns of opioid misuse among individuals with substance use disorders, in Lagos, Nigeria using a drug misuse questionnaire.

Methods

The study was a pilot prospective cohort study on adult and pediatric populations. In this study, participants completed a series of questions regarding their opioid use. The questionnaire is brief and designed to be completed in under 15 minutes to prevent participant burnout. Participants included patients in both in-patient and out-patient units of the Psychiatric Hospital in Lagos. The questionnaire was in paper form and administered by the study team. In administering the questionnaire, each question will be read out along with its responses and the participant will select the response that applies to them.