

# Continued use low three months after ED opioid prescription for acute pain

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use for new unrelated pain, and four (9 percent) reported continued use for another reason (0.8 percent [95 percent CI, 0.3 to 2.0 percent] of the whole cohort). Patients who used opioids during the first two weeks after the [emergency department](#) visit were 3.8 (95 percent CI, 1.2 to 12.7) times more likely to use opioids at three months.

"The rate of long-term [opioid use](#) reported by prescription-filling database studies should not be viewed as a proxy for incidence of opioid misuse," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Opioid use at three months after an emergency department visit where opioids were prescribed for acute pain is relatively low and not necessarily tied to opioid misuse, according to a study published in the August issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine*.

Raoul Daoust, M.D., from the University of Montreal, and colleagues assessed the use rate and reasons for consuming opioids three months after being discharged from the emergency department with an [opioid prescription](#) for an [acute pain](#) condition (for no more than two weeks). The study included 524 patients (47 percent women; mean age, 51 years) who were interviewed three months after discharge.

The researchers found that 47 patients (9 percent; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 7 to 12 percent) reported they had consumed opioids in the previous two weeks. Of those patients, 34 (72 percent) reported continued use for their initial pain, nine patients (19 percent) reported continued

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