# OPIOID ANALGESIA INCREASES SEVERITY OF ACUTE PANCREATITIS: AN INTERNATIONAL MULTICENTRE COHORT STUDY ON PAIN MANAGEMENT IN ACUTE PANCREATITIS, PAINAP STUDY

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**A prospective multicenter cohort study of 2,119 patients with acute pancreatitis found that opioid use was independently associated with increased disease severity and morbidity after adjusting for confounders.**

## KEY POINTS

- In this 27-country study, 69% of hospitalized acute pancreatitis patients received opioids at some point during admission, with 25% receiving opioids as first-line analgesia and 70% receiving simple analgesics first.
- Univariate analysis showed patients treated with opioids had increased risk of severe acute pancreatitis, organ failure, necrosis, and longer hospital stays (all p□0.01).
- Multivariate analysis demonstrated opioid treatment remained independently associated with moderately severe or severe acute pancreatitis ($p<0.001$) after controlling for alcohol aetiology and predicted severity.
- Mediation analysis indicated a significant direct effect of opioid use on acute pancreatitis severity ($p<0.001$), suggesting the association is not fully explained by confounding factors.
- The authors suggest these observational findings warrant randomized controlled trials to definitively test opioid safety in acute pancreatitis management.

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