

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTCOMES OF CONSECUTIVE PATIENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL DYSPEPSIA TAKING OPIOIDS REFERRED TO A UK TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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Poster

Oesophagus

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A retrospective UK tertiary care audit found that among 157 patients with Rome IV functional dyspepsia, 34 were taking opioids and experienced significantly higher rates of nausea, vomiting, and constipation compared to non-opioid users.

KEY POINTS

- Among 157 consecutive Rome IV functional dyspepsia patients at a UK tertiary neurogastroenterology unit (2016-2021), 34 were prescribed opioids.
- Opioid users had significantly more nausea (82.4% versus 61%, $p=0.02$), vomiting (55.9% versus 27.6%, $p=0.002$), and constipation (52.9% versus 23.6%, $p=0.001$) than non-users.
- Of 32 opioid users advised to stop, only 15 (46.8%) did so; among those who stopped, 9 (60%) reported symptom improvement, most commonly reduced constipation, reduced pain, or feeling generally better.
- Healthcare utilization showed no significant difference between groups in number of specialist consultations or investigations performed.
- The authors suggest that most functional dyspepsia patients in tertiary care do not follow opioid cessation advice and that reducing opioid prescriptions for chronic non-cancer pain may be beneficial.

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