

# Limoges 2010 recommendations on the use of opioids in chronic noncancer pain

## An educational program for French rheumatologists

What is the CEDR? Where is Limoges?



## Background (1)

Opioids in France: a long way for physicians

- Restricted laws: specific prescription forms until 1997
- Limited duration length for opioids: 28 days
- Indications restricted to cancer pain except for morphine, until 2009= fentanyl, 2010= oxycodone
- Under-utilisation of opioids for many years: France was at the 17th rank in 1999 in Europe for morphine consumption per inhabitant
- Pain is the first symptom in rheumatology but opioids are rarely prescribed (less than 1% of analgesic drugs prescribed)
- Limoges 1999: the first French recommendations in osteo-articular conditions.

*Recommendations for the optimal use of morphine in chronic rheumatic noncancer pain.*

*Limoges 2010*

## Background (2)

### Opioids in France: a long way for the patients

- Fear of tolerance
- Fear of masking the symptoms: is pain a helpful symptom?
- Opioid use is associated to cancer pain

Perrot S, Bannwarth B, Bertin P, Javier RM, Glowinski J, Le Bars M, Treves R. Use of morphine in nonmalignant joint pain: the Limoges recommendations. The French Society for Rheumatology. Rev Rhum Engl Ed. 1999;66(11):571-6.

## GPs prescriptions in France in 2002

- Analgesics = 18% of GPs prescriptions
- Level 1 and NSAIDs = 68% of analgesics.
- Level 3 analgesics (opioids) = 3% of analgesics.
- Anti-convulsants, antidepressants and level 3: less than 0,5 % of patients

## Rheumatologists' prescriptions in 2002

- NSAIDs and level 2 analgesics: 73% of total prescriptions
- An average of 1.5 million of patients treated for pain by rheumatologists per year in France:
  - 87% are prescribed NSAIDs
  - 50% prescribed analgesics step 2
  - 27% muscle relaxants
  - less than 1% are prescribed step 3 analgesics

*Limoges 2010*

## WHO ladder and musculoskeletal pain: still relevant?

WHO ladder is not dedicated to noncancer pain,  
It is used by extrapolation.

It was useful when provided to improve cancer pain management

- Numerous musculoskeletal pain conditions, different mechanisms and clinical symptoms:
  - One drug is not enough
  - WHO ladder may lead to misuse and mistakes (ex opioids in fibromyalgia)
  - NSAIDs are more powerful in many rheumatic conditions than opioids
- Other conditions :
  - Neuropathic pain



**WHO ladder should be modified and new classifications developed to improve pain management**



# New classifications... (1)

**D. Lussier et P. Beaulieu**

**IASP Press, Pharmacology of Pain, 2010**

## **Anti-nociceptive analgesics**

Non opioids :

Paracetamol

NSAIDs

Opioids

Cannabinoids

## **Anti-hyperalgesics :**

NMDA Antagonists

Anticonvulsants : Gabapentine, prégabaline, Lamotrigine

Nefopam

Coxibs

# New classifications...(2)

## D. Lussier et P. Beaulieu

### IASP Press, Pharmacology of Pain, 2010

#### ***Modulators of inhibiting and exciting descending controls***

Tricyclic Antidepressants

SNRIs

#### ***Modulateurs of transmission and peripheral sensitization :***

Local anesthetics

Carbamazepin, Oxcarbazepin, Topiramate

Capsaicin

#### ***Mixed : antinociceptive analgesics and descending inhibitor or excitatory inhibiting controls modulators***

Tramadol

Tapentadol

#### ***Others :***

Calcitonin

Bisphosphonates



## A first project for rheumatologists and musculoskeletal pain: Limoges 1999 Recommendations

- In 1999: very few papers on opioids and rheumatic pain
- WHO ladder not relevant
- CEDR was established in 1997: french rheumatic society and french pain society
- Recommendations on opioids in chronic noncancer pain:
  - 10 experts
    - Rheumatologists
    - Pain specialists
    - Pharmacologists
    - Methodologists
- Expert analyses and recommendations: 16 recommendations  
1999

**Since pain is a ubiquitous symptom, one should develop links between pain societies and specific societies**



Since 1999

- Limoges' recommendations have been widely diffused and well accepted by French rheumatologists, in hospital and private practice
- It is used as a reference in rheumatological practice
  - Because it is adapted to french system: patients, physicians, rheumatology...
  - Adapted to indications,

**National recommendations may help the diffusion of better clinical practice since it is more appropriate to the local specificities than international guidelines.**



## Changes since 1999

- Many papers on opioids and rheumatic pain
  - Better level of evidence in opioid use in noncancer pain
- Several new opioid substances marketed and approved in Europe and in France: fentanyl, oxycodone, sophidone...
- Limitation in the use of Coxibs and NSAIDs

Need for update and new recommendations

Les Recommandations du **CEDR**  
CERCLE  
D'ETUDE DE LA DOULEUR  
EN RHUMATOLOGIE

**2010**

**Limoges 2010 recommendations  
on the use of opioids in chronic  
noncancer pain**

An educational programme for french  
rheumatologists

## Limoges recommendations 2010: 5 steps

1. Opinion survey of French rheumatologists on opioids
2. Define specific issues to address in new recommendations
3. Develop recommendations as for the first version:
  1. Expert panel
  2. Literature analysis and scoring
  3. First set of recommendations
  4. Delphi method
  5. Last round and final recommendations
4. Diffusion of recommendations
5. Impact of recommendations

# Limoges 2010 - Préalable

<p>1. Il existe maintenant différents opioïdes forts disponibles en rhumatologie, ayant fait l'objet d'études cliniques de bonne qualité. Dans ce contexte, de nouvelles recommandations basées sur les preuves et sur l'avis d'experts ont été développées pour aider les cliniciens à utiliser les opioïdes forts dans les douleurs ostéo-articulaires.</p>	<p>Grade A</p>
<p>2. Les objectifs d'un traitement par opioïde fort pour les douleurs rhumatologiques sont de diminuer la douleur et de réactiver la fonction de patients non améliorés par les autres traitements médicamenteux et non médicamenteux bien menés.</p>	<p>Grade D</p>
<p>3. L'introduction d'un opioïde fort nécessite une démarche diagnostique complète, en cas de doute, il sera légitime de solliciter un avis au près d'une structure spécialisée de prise en charge de la douleur.</p>	<p>Grade D.</p>
<p>4. Il n'y a pas de recommandation pour utiliser un morphinique plutôt qu'un autre. Néanmoins la forme per os est privilégiée en première intention, ainsi que les formes à libération prolongée.</p>	<p>Grade C.</p>

## An example of the recommendations concerning OA: literature analysis

- 9 valid studies, good methodological score (Jadad  $\geq 4$ )
- Drug tested :
  - Transdermal Fentanyl
  - Oxycodone
  - Oxymorphone
  - Morphine Sulfate
  - Tapentadol
- Conditions tested:
  - Lower limb OA
  - OA without more precision
  - Patients on surgery waiting list

Auteur Année	Indication	Traitement	Schéma étude	Nombre de patients	Posologie	Durée	Critère douleur	Effet antalgique	Score de Jadad
<b>Caldwell 2002</b>	Arthrose genou ou hanche	1. Sulphate de morphine LP (une prise par jour)  2. Placebo	ECR  DA  Double masquage	295 patients	30 mg/j le matin ou le soir ou 15 mg (2 fois par j) ou placebo	4 semaines	VAS  (douleur  Womac)	Effet taille estimé à 0,35 [0,02-0,67] sur composante douleur du Womac entre sulphate de morphine 30 mg le matin et placebo	5
<b>Cadwell 1999</b>	Arthrose	1.Oxycodone LP (2 fois par jour)  2.Oxycodone + acétaminophène 4 fois par jour  3.Placebo	ECR  DA  Essai de sevrage	Phase de titration : 167 Phase double aveugle  107 pts	20 à 60 mg/j	Ttitration : 30 jours (oxycodone 5 mg 4 fois par jour)  Double aveugle : 30 jours	Intensité de douleur (0 à 3)	La douleur a augmenté dans les 3 groupes après la phase de titration, mais dans moins dans les 2 groupes oxycodone par rapport au placebo (p < 0,0001)	5
<b>Hartrick 2009</b>	Patients en attente de prothèse articulaire	1.Tapentadol libération immédiate (TIL)  2.Oxycodone (OXYC)  3. Placebo	ECR  DA	666 patients  659 patients analysés	TIL50mg  TIL75mg  OXYC (IL) 10mg  PLa	10 jours	Douleur sur échelle numérique ne 11 points (matin et soir durant toute l'étude)	Différence SPID 5 jours  TIL 50mg 101,2 p < 0,001  TIL 75 mg 97,5 p < 0,001  OXY 10 mg 111,9 p < 0,001	4

Morphine - Tapentadol - Oxycodone

*Limoges 2010*



<b>Markenson 2005</b>	Arthrose	1.Oxycodone (OXYC)  2.Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	109 patients randomisés  107 patients analysés	OXYC : 12 mg tous les 12 heures  PLA : toutes les 12 heures.  Adaptation des doses toutes les 24 heures.	3 mois	Composante douleur du BPI (Brief Pain Inventory)	ES 0,41 [0,03-0,79]	5
<b>Roth 2000</b>	Arthrose  (pas critère ACR)	Oxycodone 10 mg (OXYC 10 mg)  Oxycodone 20 mg (OXYC 20)  Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	133 patients  45 PLA	OXYC 10 mg) 2 fois/j  OXYC 20 mg 2 fois/j  PLA 2 fois/j	2 semaines	Intensité douleur sur échelle numérique en 4 points.	Diminution statistiquement significative entre les groupes oxymorphone et le placebo sur la douleur.	4
<b>Zautra 2005</b>	Arthrose	Oxycodone (OXYC 10)  Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	107 patients randomisés  104 patients analysés	OXYC 20 mg/j	2 semaines	Intensité douloureuse sur EN en 11 points. Nombre de patients s'améliorant de plus de 2 points.	Répondeurs :  OXYC 10 : 40 % (22/55)  PLA : 10 % (5/49) p < 0,001)	4

<b>Kivitz 2006</b>	Arthrose de hanche et de genou  Patient recevant déjà des opioïdes ou un traitement suboptimal avec AINS et paracétamol.	1. Oxymorphone libération prolongée (OXYM) 3 doses  2. Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	370 patients randomisés  198 patients ont fini l'étude.	1. OXYM (ER) 10 mg x 2 j semaine 1 et 2  2. OXYM (ER) 20 mg x 2 j semaine 1 et 40 mg x 2 j semaine 2  3. OXYM (ER) 20 mg x 2 j semaine 1 et 50 mg x 2 j semaine 2	2 semaines	Intensité douloureuse sur VAS  Womac	La diminution de l'intensité de douleur entre inclusion et le fin était de  OXYM 10mg : - 21mm (Diff avec PLA NS)  OXYM 40 mg : -28 mg (diff avec PLA 0,012)  OXYM /50 mg -29 mg (diff avec PLA 0,006)  PLA - 17 mm	4
<b>Matsumoto 2005</b>	Arthrose genou ou hanche	1. Oxymorphone libération prolongée LP 2 doses (OXYM)  2. Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	370 patients randomisés	OXYM : 40 mg/j ou 20 mg/j ou placebo	4 semaines	Changement douleur sur EVA de 0 à 100 la semaine 3	Différence avec placebo du changement des intensités douloureuses entre inclusion et Semaine 3  OXYM 9 p < 0,0015	4
<b>Langford 2006</b>	Arthrose de hanche et de genou	1. Fentanyl transdermique (FEN)  2. Placebo (PLA)	ECR  DA	399 patients randomisés	Patch cutané libérant 25µg/h de fentanyl ou placebo identique tous les 3 jours	6 semaines	Aire sous la courbe douleur  WOMAC	Aire sous la courbe FEN - 20 (ESM 1,4)  PLA -14,6 (ESM 1.4)  Effet taille estimé 0.30 [0,11-0,50]	5

## Recommendations on OA - In rheumatological literature: EULAR (2003): no opioids?

- Jordan KM, Arden NK, Doherty M, et al; EULAR Recommendations 2003: an evidence based approach to the management of kneeosteoarthritis: Report of a Task Force of the Standing Committee for International Clinical Studies Including Therapeutic Trials (ESCISIT). Ann Rheum Dis. 2003;62:1145-55. .

**Table 4** Summary of the effect size versus placebo, quality scores, and number of studies identified

Intervention	Number of studies	Positive to placebo	Quality score (range)	Quality score (median)	Effect size versus placebo
Acetaminophen/paracetamol	5	1/1	17-26	20	
Opioid analgesic/other NSAID	6	2/3	11-24	19	
Conventional NSAID	130	27/31	5-27	17	0.47, 0.50, 0.76, 0.96,
Coxibs	5	4/4	18-25	23	0.50
Antidepressant	1	1/0	16	-	
Topical NSAID	9	5/7	18-26	22	-0.05, 0.16, 0.31, 0.91, 1.03
Topical capsaicin	2	2/2	21, 26		0.41, 0.56
Sex hormones	2	0/1	15, 20		
SYSADOA					
Glucosamine	8	4/6	14-27	24	0.43, 0.53, 1.02
Chondroitin	5	5/5	20-27	24	1.23, 1.37, 1.44, 1.50
Diacerein	1	1/1	22	22	
ASU	3	3/3	21-24	23	0.32, 1.72
Nutrients	2	2/2	4,25	-	0.65

## Recommendations on OA - In rheumatological literature: OARSI (2008): opioids only in specific circumstances

« *The use of weak opioids and narcotic analgesics can be considered for the treatment of refractory pain in patients with hip or knee OA, where other pharmacological agents have been ineffective, or are contraindicated. Stronger opioids should **only be used for the management of severe pain in exceptional circumstances**. Non-pharmacological therapies should be continued in such patients and surgical treatments should be considered. »*

Zhang W, Moskowitz RW, Nuki G, et al. OARSI recommendations for the management of hip and knee osteoarthritis, Part II: OARSI evidence-based, expert consensus guidelines. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. 2008;16(2):137-162.

*Limoges 2010*

# In pain literature:

*Clinicians may consider a trial of chronic opioid therapy (COT) as an option if chronic noncancer pain is moderate or severe, pain is having an adverse impact on function or quality of life, and potential therapeutic benefits outweigh or are likely to outweigh potential harms (strong recommendation, low-quality evidence).*

*Clinicians and patients should regard initial treatment with opioids as a therapeutic trial to determine whether COT is appropriate (strong recommendation, low-quality evidence).*

*Chou R, Fanciullo G, Fine PG, et al; American Pain Society–American Academy of Pain Medicine Opioids Guidelines Panel. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. J Pain. 2009; 10(2):113-129.*

## DIRE

### D.I.R.E. Score: Patient Selection for Chronic Opioid Analgesia

For each factor, rate the patient's score from 1-3 based on the explanations in the right hand column

Score	Factor	Explanation
	<b>Diagnosis</b>	1 = Benign chronic condition with minimal objective findings or no definite medical diagnosis. Examples: fibromyalgia, migraine headaches, non-specific back pain. 2 = Slowly progressive condition concordant with moderate pain, or fixed condition with moderate objective findings. Examples: failed back surgery syndrome, back pain with moderate degenerative changes, neuropathic pain. 3 = Advanced condition concordant with severe pain with objective findings. Examples: severe ischemic vascular disease, advanced neuropathy, severe spinal stenosis.
	<b>Intractability</b>	1 = Few therapies have been tried and the patient takes a passive role in his/her pain management process. 2 = Most customary treatments have been tried but the patient is not fully engaged in the pain management process, or barriers prevent (insurance, transportation, medical fitness). 3 = Patient fully engaged in a spectrum of appropriate treatments but with inadequate response.
	<b>Risk</b>	(R= Total of P+C+R+S below)
	<b>Psychological:</b>	1 = Serious personality dysfunction or mental illness interfering with care. Example: personality disorder, severe affective disorder, significant personality issues. 2 = Personality or mental health interferes moderately. Example: depression or anxiety disorder. 3 = Good communication with clinic. No significant personality dysfunction or mental illness.
	<b>Chemical Health:</b>	1 = Active or very recent use of illicit drugs, excessive alcohol, or prescription drug abuse. 2 = Chemical copper (uses medications to cope with stress) or history of CD in remission. 3 = No CD history. Not drug-focused or chemically reliant.
	<b>Reliability:</b>	1 = History of numerous problems: medication misuse, missed appointments, rarely follows through. 2 = Occasional difficulties with compliance, but generally reliable. 3 = Highly reliable patient with meds, appointments & treatment.
	<b>Social Support:</b>	1 = Life in chaos. Little family support and few close relationships. Loss of most normal life roles. 2 = Reduction in some relationships and life roles. 3 = Supportive family/close relationships. Involved in work or school and no social isolation.
	<b>Efficacy score</b>	1 = Poor function or minimal pain relief despite moderate to high doses. 2 = Moderate benefit with function improved in a number of ways (or insufficient info- hasn't tried opioid yet or very low doses or too short of a trial). 3 = Good improvement in pain and function and quality of life with stable doses over time.

Total score = D + I + R + E

Score 7-13: Not a suitable candidate for long-term opioid analgesia

Score 14-21: Good candidate for long-term opioid analgesia

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## LIMOGES 2010 recommendations in OA

<p>-Strong opioids can be prescribed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-after failure or lack of efficacy of usually recommended analgesic treatments</li><li>-or if there is a contra-indication for surgery,</li><li>-or when waiting for surgery</li></ul>	<p>Grade A</p>
<p>-In lower limb OA, it is preferable to use long term opioids allowing pain and function improvement.</p>	<p>Expert consensus</p>

# Limoges recommendations 2010: for different conditions, different populations

1. Conditions:
  1. Fibromyalgia
  2. Inflammatory joint disorders: rheumatoid arthritis, spondylarthropathies
  3. Low back pain
  4. CRPS1
  5. Osteoporosis
  6. Gout, chondrocalcinosis
2. Populations:
  1. Elderly patients
  2. Pregnancy
  3. Paediatrics
  4. Renal and hepatic failure
3. Specific use in rheumatology: go low, go slow
4. Strategies and analgesic combinations

**Consider improvement of both pain and function  
in musculoskeletal pain**



# Limoges recommendations 2010: 5 steps

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2. Define specific issues to address in recommendations
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**Two more steps to develop**

*Limoges 2010*



# Conclusions



## **Recommendations and guidelines at a national level may help to**

- Improve knowledge in drug benefit
- Reduce reluctance for new therapeutic options
- reduce the gap between pain management and management of underlying conditions
- improve the popularity of an unknown european city

