

Title:            Pharmacological strategies to attenuate opioid-induced hyperalgesia

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Many patients taking opioid drugs for pain actually experience increased pain sensitivity from their exposure to the pain-relieving drugs. This paradoxical situation has been well described in methadone maintenance subjects but also now appears to occur in patients with pain taking opioids. We wish to examine the potential for reducing this hyperalgesia by administering different classes of drugs, which animal studies suggest may be effective. These other treatment modalities include the ultra low doses of opioid antagonists, NMDA antagonists and NK antagonists. This is a clinical project involving patient recruitment, testing and analytical procedures.