Reviewer's report

Title: Low risk for opioid tolerance after skeletal trauma: long-term follow-up of opioid use in patients with tibial shaft fractures

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2013

Reviewer: Michael Schaefer

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting retrospective analysis of data obtained from the Swedish National Hospital Discharge Register on patients with tibial shaft fracture and chronic opioid use. As pointed out by the authors these patients with severe chronic pain are often neglected. However, this is an intriguing study population to demonstrate the lack of opioid tolerance development.

Comments

Page 5, lines 8-9: “Each patient in the fracture group was matched with five individuals by age, sex, and residential area.” Please provide also informations on the number and demographic data of these matched patients. It is assumed that they did not have any fracture?

A limitation of this study is that the reason for the discontinuation of the opioid use is not reported which should be addressed by the authors. For example the reason for the elderly patients to discontinue the opioid medication could be because of a higher incidence of adverse events.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflict of interest