



Opioids: A Challenge to Public Health

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Message from the Guest Editors

Overdosing among people exposed to opiates may take one of at least two forms. On one hand, there is accidental overdosing resulting from excessive administration of opiate drugs for various purposes (mainly sedation or painful syndromes). On the other hand, overdosing is one possible consequence of a symptomatic behavior found in opiate addiction. Furthermore, other cases may be due to intentional self-poisoning, in other words, suicidal behavior.

A reasonable response to overdose epidemics should certainly be based on overdose prevention, rather than antidote optimization, considering that adequate means of prevention are so easy to implement. In the thinking of an addictionologist, the issue of overdose prevention is closely connected with the wider issues of addiction treatment and harm reduction and looms as highly dependent on the effectiveness of treatments to put off cravings and reduce impulsive drug-using behavior.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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