Reduced Street Price and Quantity Discounts for Diverted OxyContin and Opana Following Crush Resistant Reformulation

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How Obama Plans To Combat Opioid Abuse

Police and legislators respond to rise

Editorial: Doctors must join fight Large cities seek to combat

Opioid drug abuse on the rise locally

Steph Crosier, The Sault Star
Friday, August 29, 2014 4:00:55 EDT PM
Background

149,050,1
Background

1,259%
Background

17% → 37%
Silk Road
anonymous marketplace

Shop by Category

Drugs 7,079
- Opioids 512
  - Prescription 241
    - IVIM 14
  - Heroin 121
  - Opium 21
- Cannabis 1,678
- Dissociatives 128
- Ecstasy 579
- Other 422
- Precursors 44
- Prescription 1,768
- Psychedelics 698
- Stimulants 881
- Apparel 191
- Art 133
- Books 1,283
- Collectibles 5
- Computer equipment 52
- Custom Orders 74
- Digital goods 458
- Drug paraphernalia 172
- Electronics 93
- Erotica 496
- Fireworks 11
- Food 6
- Pornographies 145

Sort by: newest [ ] Domestic only [ ] update

XMAS OXYCONTIN SALE 10 x 40mg - $235
seller: TheDutchGuy(100)
ships from: Netherlands

European Codeine 20mg/20 pills
seller: FollowMe(100)
ships from: Spain

OXYCONTIN 80MG - OP 80 Purdue
plus EXTRA GIFTS
seller: jaysonwoods
ships from: United States of America

5x 8mg Subutex (buprenorphine)

Background
Background

- Crush resistant formulations have emerged as one public health approach to reducing opioid associated morbidity and mortality.

**Crushable oxycodone**

**Crush resistant oxycodone**

The Question - Do they work?
StreetRx

Supply ↔ Price ↔ Demand

[Map showing street Rx prices across the USA, with price points for various medications and their rates indicated.]
To determine if street prices for crush resistant oxycodone and oxymorphone are lower than their crushable equivalents
Methods

• Submission for all formulations of oxycodone and oxymorphone were recorded from January 1, 2012 to October 31, 2014

• Two tablet categories were used:
  • Crushable
  • Crush resistant

• Three tablet strength categories were used:
  • 15 mg or less
  • 20 to 40 mg
  • 60 or more mg

• The price per mg was calculated by dividing the price paid for the tablet by the mg of opioid within the tablet
Oxycodone Results

Comparison of geometric mean price per milligram of oxycodone products January 2012 to October 2014

* = p < 0.05

15 or less mg
-8.5%*

20 to 40 mg
-18.6%*

60 or more mg
-11.0%
Oxymorphone Results

Comparison of geometric mean price per milligram of oxymorphone products
January 2012 to October 2014

* = p < 0.05

-56.7%*
-45.5%*
-35.7%*
-19.0%

$0.86 $1.65
$0.62 $1.20

Oxymorphone Crush Resistant
Oxymorphone Crushable (ER+IR)
Discussion

- The street prices of crush resistant formulations of oxycodone and oxymorphone are significantly lower than their crushable equivalents across multiple tablet strengths.
Discussion

• The observation that price per mg decreased as tablet strength increased may represent a quantity discount phenomenon (wholesale), by which buyers receive a lower price per mg for larger purchases as sellers minimize distribution risks.
Limitations

- **No link to outcomes.** It is unknown if street price decreases represent users shifting to other prescription opioids or illicit drugs, such as heroin.
References


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