

# Gabapentinoid Abuse among EUROPAD Subjects

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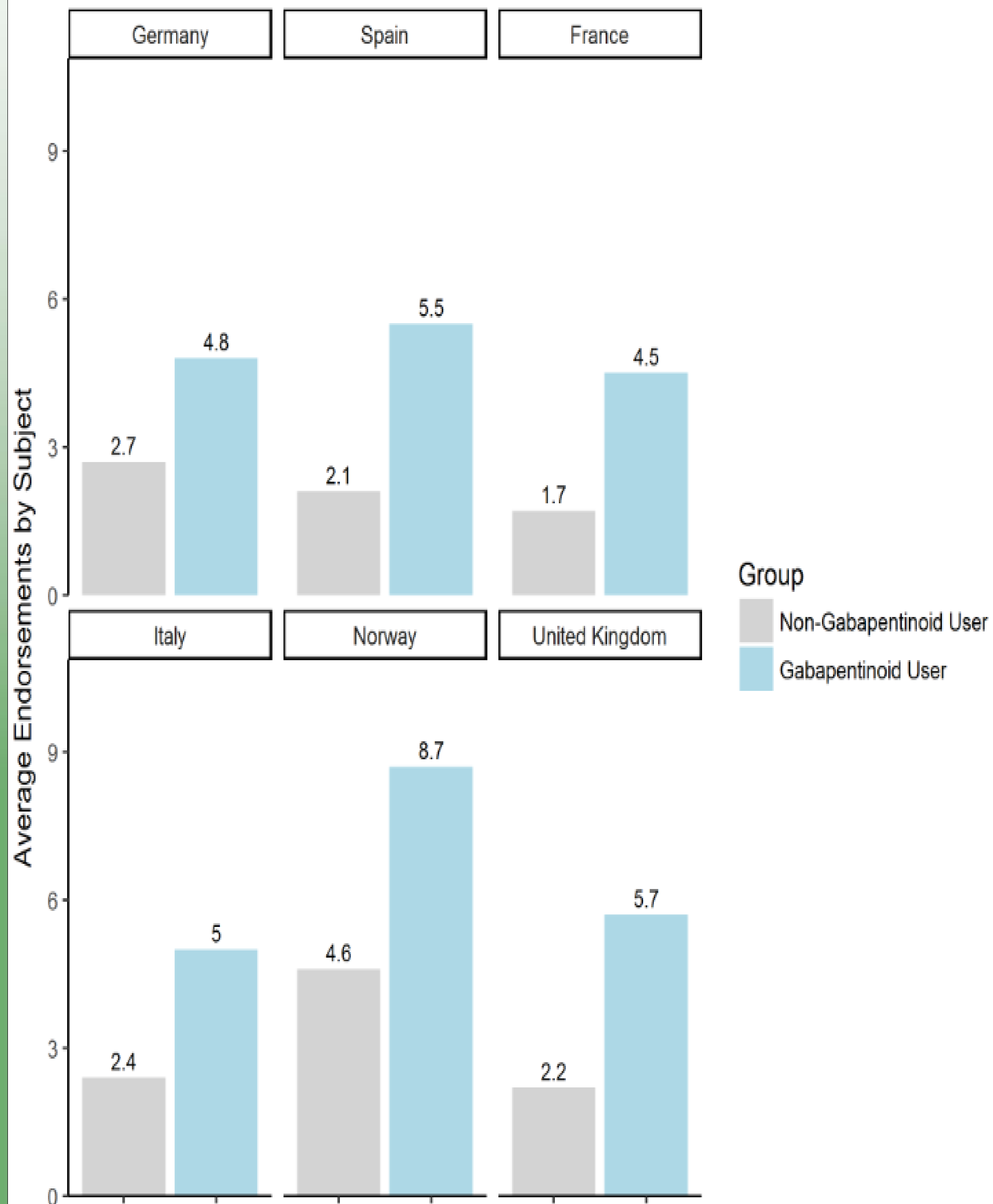
## Background

- Prescribing of gabapentinoid drugs (gabapentin and pregabalin) has increased over the past decade.
- These drugs are commonly used to treat seizure disorders, anxiety disorders, and neuropathic pain. However, these drugs also carry a potential for misuse.
- We describe gabapentinoid abuse among subjects seeking opioid treatment in the RADARS<sup>®</sup> System European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association (EUROPAD) Program.

## Methods

- The EUROPAD Program is a multi-center observational study comprised of 11 participating European opiate treatment programs in 6 countries (France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom).
- The questionnaire surveys the abuse of substances among patients entering drug dependence treatment programs. Abuse is an endorsement of use “to get high” in the past 90 days.
- Data from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014 through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 were analyzed. Descriptive statistics for respondents endorsing abuse of gabapentinoids and for respondents who did not are presented. Chi-squared tests and t-tests were used to determine statistical significance.

## Figure 1. Average Endorsement of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients by Country



## Results

- From 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2014 through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2017, EUROPAD enrolled 1,805 respondents. Of these individuals, 1,634 endorsed abusing an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) over the last 90 days.
- 119 (6.59%) endorsed gabapentinoid abuse within the past 90 days.
- Respondents endorsing gabapentinoid abuse were more likely to be female (36.97% versus 24.29%,  $p=0.0022$ ), endorse heroin as their primary drug of abuse (69.75% versus 47.39%,  $p<0.001$ ), and endorse abuse of a greater number of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (5.66 versus 2.39,  $p<0.001$ ) than respondents who did not endorse gabapentinoids.
- Of those who endorsed gabapentinoids, 26.05% also endorsed tramadol, compared to only 6.17% of other respondents.

## Conclusions

- Among EUROPAD subjects, respondents who endorse gabapentinoid abuse are more likely to be female, use heroin as their primary substance of abuse, and endorse polysubstance abuse than those who do not abuse gabapentinoids.
- Tramadol abuse is more common among respondents who endorse gabapentinoid abuse than those who do not.

