

Latin American Pain Federation position paper on appropriate opioid use in pain management.

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Abstract

Improper pain treatment is a worldwide public health issue. Although scientific evidence supports the safe use of opioids, there is still significant reluctance around the use of these analgesics. The most significant problem for appropriate pain management has been the negative perception of these analgesics, known as opiophobia. The “opioid crisis,” characterised by the prolonged and indiscriminate use of prescription opioids seen in some countries, has led to high addiction and mortality rates. This has had a profoundly negative impact on pain management. Furthermore, in Latin America and for most of the world’s population, access to and availability of these medicinal products are still inadequate and lead to unnecessary suffering as a result.