A Literature Review of the Quality of Life Burden of Opioid-Induced Constipation

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Background
- Opioids are among the most commonly prescribed medications for chronic pain.
- There is growing recognition that opioids may reduce quality of life for patients with chronic pain.

Objective of the Literature Review
- To identify and describe studies exploring the QOL burden of OIC.

Methods
- Literature Review Protocol
- A protocol (including the focus, search strategy, and data extraction methods) was developed to guide development and completion of the literature review.

Study Selection Criteria
- Included were relevant primary language primary research studies discussing the QOL of patients with OIC, including its impact on QOL.

Search Results
- The literature search yielded 6971 unique abstracts, after a hand-search of references from 13 included studies that included patients with OIC. The mean number of references per study was 13 (range 10-19). A total of 666 articles met the inclusion criteria for review.

Results
- The search retrieved 666 articles. Of these, 625 were excluded after title and abstract review.

Table 1. QOL-Related Objectives and Methods in the Included Studies of Patients with Chronic Pain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Study Design</th>
<th>QOL Measure</th>
<th>Study Population</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cross-sectional survey</td>
<td>EQ-5D</td>
<td>Patients with cancer</td>
<td>Measured QOL using EQ-5D, including its impact on QOL.</td>
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<td>PAC-QOL</td>
<td>Patients with cancer</td>
<td>Measured QOL using PAC-QOL, including its impact on QOL.</td>
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Table 2. Key Findings Regarding QOL Burden in Patients with OIC

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<th>Findings</th>
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<td>Patients with OIC</td>
<td>The median EQ-5D index was worse in patients with OIC vs. patients without OIC. Differences were significant in all PAC-QOL domains. For very or severe OIC, EQ-5D index was 0.65 (IQR 0.22–0.78) in OIC patients and 0.78 (IQR 0.61–0.87) in non-OIC patients (p&lt;0.0001).</td>
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Table 3. Summary of the QOL Findings Related to Comparisons of OIC versus Controls

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Conclusions
- This review identified 12 studies that explored QOL in OIC. The findings from these studies showed that QOL is significantly impacted in patients with OIC versus patients without OIC, with results being consistent across the majority of the studies.

Acknowledgments
- This work was supported by Shionogi's internal research program.

References

Appendix
- Table 1: QOL-Related Objectives and Methods in the Included Studies of Patients with Chronic Pain
- Table 2: Key Findings Regarding QOL Burden in Patients with OIC
- Table 3: Summary of the QOL Findings Related to Comparisons of OIC versus Controls

Figure 1. PAC-QOL scores in OIC versus non-OIC cancer patients taking strong opioids for pain.