

Lower back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide.

Although guidelines encourage prescribing simple analgesics, such as paracetamol or NSAIDs, many people with low back pain are prescribed opioids.

OPIOIDS & PAIN

Many trials exclude participants who do not tolerate or adequately respond to the opioid analgesic in the run-in phase.

In the United States, researchers found more than half of people regularly treated with prescription opioid analgesics have chronic low back pain.

Researchers also found that the ability of people with lower back pain to tolerate opioid analgesics is not well studied.

In Australia, the three most commonly prescribed drugs for the condition are opioid analgesics or opioid analgesic combinations: Oxycodone (11.7%), tramadol (8.2%), and paracetamol and codeine

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