



Opioids: The Good and the Bad

The opioid epidemic is a national crisis that is akin to the war on terror. It afflicts millions of people nationwide and causes a massive amount of deaths every single day. The National Institute on Drug Abuse states that “every day, more than 130 people die after overdosing on opioids.” This number is almost 2.5 times more than my graduating senior class and is much too high. (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2017).

With an average of 130 deaths a day, the number of people who vainly lose their lives annually is staggering. Going back to the NIDA, they state, “In 2017, more than 47,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose.” Living in a town of 2,000 people, this number is nearly incomprehensible, as it would be equal to my entire small town dying about 23.5 times over again. Every one of these deaths was preventable as well (NIDA).

Even with as many deaths caused by opioids, these pills serve an extremely important role in the field of medicine. They help countless numbers of people heal swiftly and properly. In a paper titled, *Pain and Poppies: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Opioid Analgesics*, published by The Journal of Neuroscience, Trang, et al., states that, “Opioids are particularly effective for treating acute moderate-to-severe pain after surgery or trauma, and they are quintessential drugs in a physician’s pharmacological toolbox for managing chronic pain.”

This states that these drugs are extremely important when treating pain for severe-acute pain, which many people, including myself, have to or have had to suffer through. It is very painful (Trang, et al).

Throughout my research for this paper, the conclusion that has been made is that there is a very

large problem in society. That problem is these addictive narcotics. Countless people are affected by these pills, whether it is someone who actually loses their life for their addiction, or their families and friends who get to clean up the mess. This problem is only getting worse and will continue to do so.

With that said, these drugs are very helpful and mandatory for the healing process to work properly and effectively. Opioids should still be prescribed, but only when necessary to relieve debilitating pain.

References

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