

Factors ID'd for persistent opioid use after pediatric surgery

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(HealthDay)—Higher daily average inpatient pain scores and higher

postoperative opioid consumption are associated with a subsequent persistent opioid use of up to six months among pediatric patients undergoing major oncologic surgery, according to a study published online April 17 in *Pediatric Anesthesia*.

Pascal Owusu-Agyemang, M.D., from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues assessed factors associated with post-discharge persistent opioid use of up to six months in a group of 86 children and adolescents ([median age](#), 12 years) who had undergone cytoreductive surgery with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy.

The researchers found that the proportion of patients with persistent opioid use in the immediate three, six, 12, and 24 post-discharge months were 70 percent (54 of 77 [patients](#)), 35 percent (18 of 51), 29 percent (13 of 45), and 13 percent (three of 24), respectively. For the group that subsequently developed persistent opioid use of up to six months, the daily average inpatient pain scores were higher (P "The unique nature of this surgical procedure means that broad conclusions cannot be made based on our findings," the authors write. "Further studies in other pediatric surgical populations are required to determine the associations between perioperative factors and long-term [opioid](#) use in children."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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