

Low-dose ketamine may be an effective alternative to opioids

July 18 2018

Opioids are commonly prescribed in the emergency department (ED) for the treatment of acute pain, but due to the epidemic of opioid misuse, analgesic alternatives are being explored. A new *Academic Emergency Medicine* analysis of relevant studies found that low-dose ketamine is as effective as opioids for the control of acute pain in the ED.

The analysis of 3 studies noted that although adverse events associated with ketamine were reported, few appeared to be clinically significant.

"Ketamine appears to be a legitimate and safe alternative to opioids for treating [acute pain](#) in the Emergency Department," said senior author Dr. Evan Schwarz, of the Washington University School of Medicine.

"Emergency physicians can feel comfortable using it instead of opioids."

More information: *Academic Emergency Medicine*, [DOI: 10.1111/acem.13502](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Low-dose ketamine may be an effective alternative to opioids (2018, July 18) retrieved 14 February 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-07-low-dose-ketamine-effective-alternative-opioids.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.