

Injectable Opioid Agonist Therapy

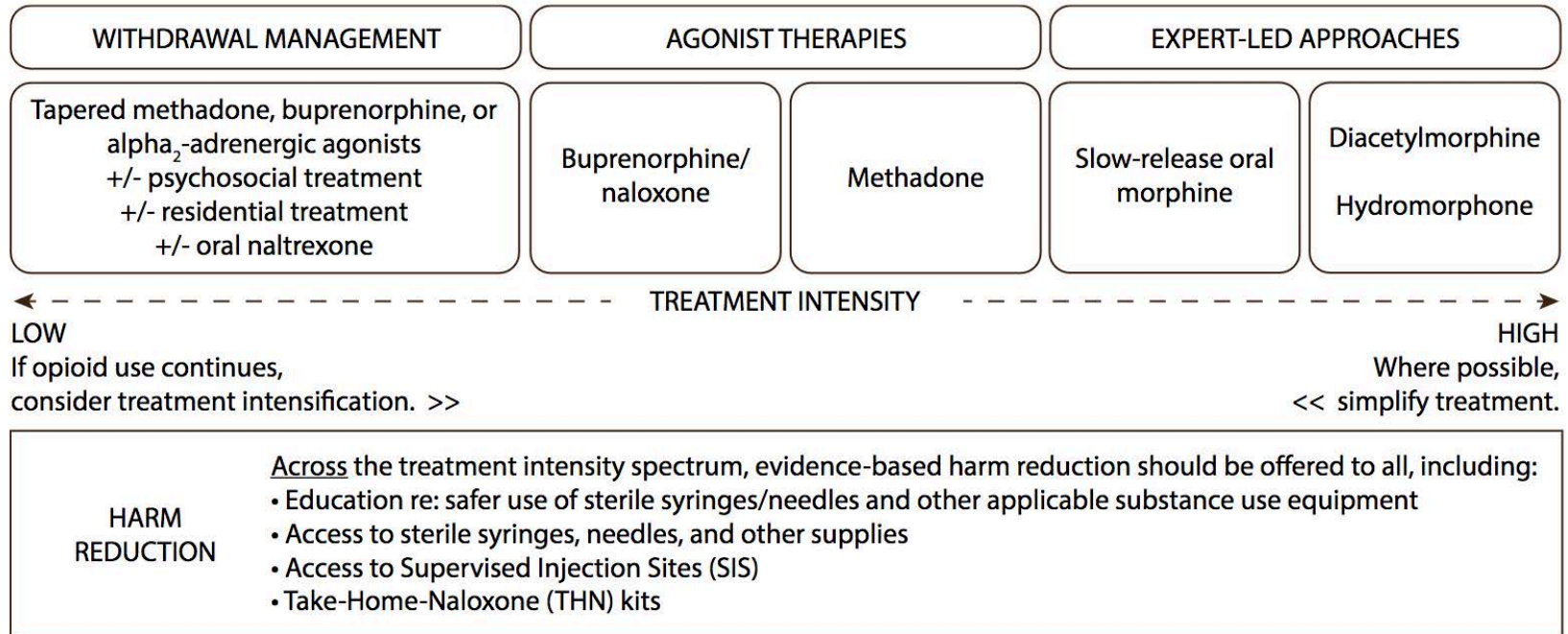
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Use

Financial Disclosures

None

Treating Opioid Use Disorder

Figure 1: Continuum of Care



Non toxic drug consumption in a safe space



Known substance, known dose, clean supplies

A bit of history

In the UK they have been prescribing heroin for opioid use disorder for more than a century as take home doses.

Swiss National Clinical Study

- First trial started in Switzerland in 1994
- Has been standard treatment for opioid use disorder in Switzerland since 1998

Cochrane Review of iOAT

- Social functioning improved in all the intervention groups with heroin groups having slightly better results.

iOAT

- For people with severe opioid use disorder who have tried oral treatment and had ongoing drug use or negative consequences
- The patient attends clinic 2-3 times per day for a supervised injection
- Combined with an oral therapy such as methadone

- Average time in treatment is 3 years
- In general, patients stabilize on a dose and remain on that dose for the duration, or taper their dose
- On average, this maintenance dose is about half of the program maximum
- Patients usually transition to oral treatment, but many successfully taper to achieve no opioid use

Public safety

- There have been no detrimental effects on public safety, or disorder from iOAT
- People enrolled in iOAT decrease criminal behaviour

The Study to Assess Longer-term Opioid Medication Effectiveness (SALOME)

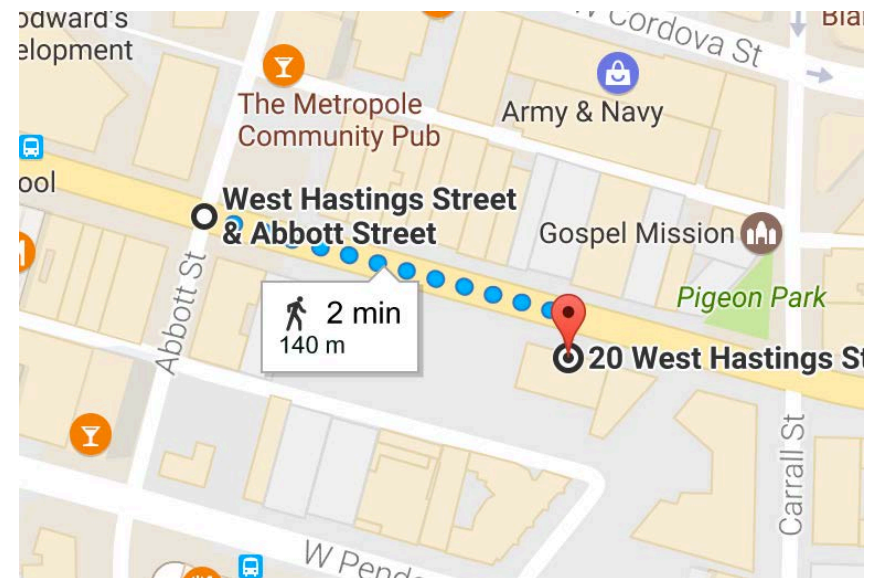
- A non-inferiority study looking at hydromorphone and diacetylmorphine
- Double blind RCT with 202 participants in Vancouver, BC

- **CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE**

non-inferiority of injectable hydromorphone

My own practice

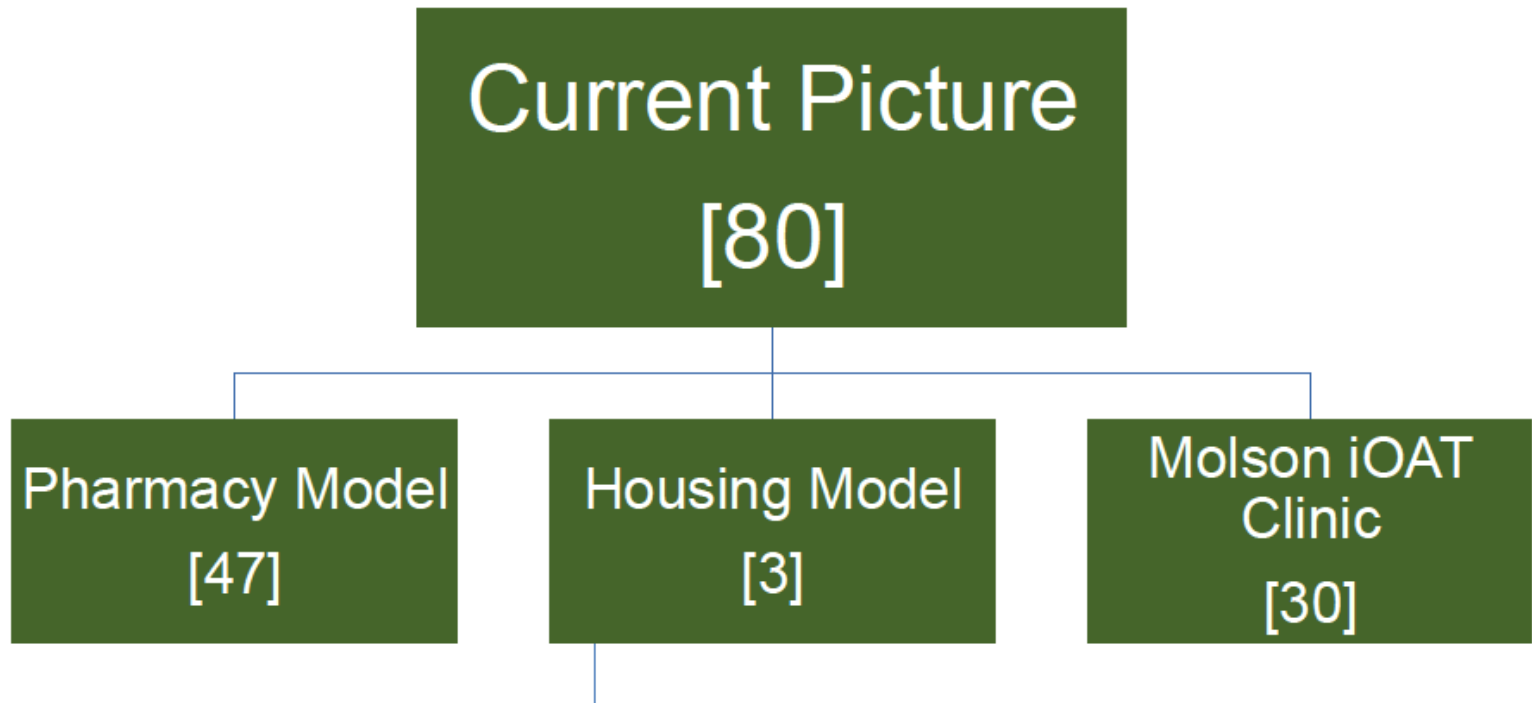
- Salome was published in May 2016
- The researcher came by my clinic and asked if I would consider prescribing iOAT
- I was interested, but nervous



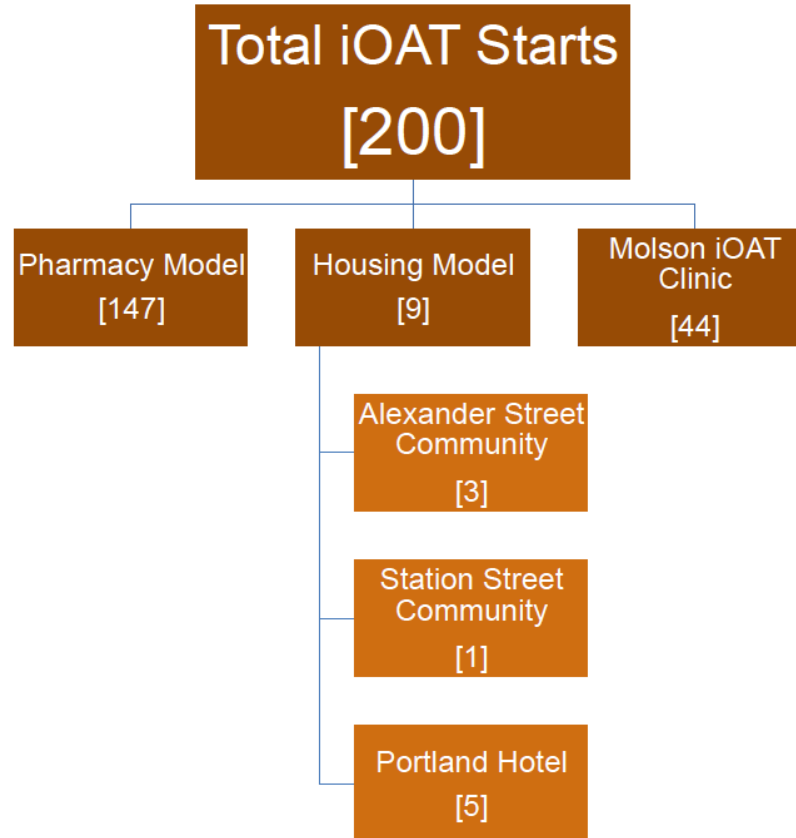
September 2016 I began an iOAT program that was embedded in one of our low barrier housing projects.

And my patient got better

PHS current iOAT



PHS iOAT Program



PHS iOAT

- Connected to employment
- Connection to primary care
- Fluid patient directed movement along the continuum of care
- Daily nursing care

Conclusions

- Injectable opioid agonist treatment is an evidence based tool to treat opioid use disorder
- Patients stabilize quickly, use less drugs, decrease crime, exit sex work, and gain housing and employment
- People move along the continuum of care to match their needs