Urine Drug Monitoring Now Detects Oxymorphone

AmeritoxSM Pain Medication Monitoring Solutions® has enhanced its test offerings in response to public health concerns about the rapid increase in oxymorphone (Opana®) abuse. The patented Ameritox Rx GuardianSM with Rx Guardian CD®SM medication monitoring now includes oxymorphone, providing physicians with a tool to compare normalized drug levels in their patients’ urine to a database of patients who were prescribed oxymorphone for chronic pain and were clinically assessed as adherent. It is the only urine drug monitoring service that includes this kind of information.

Rx Guardian with Rx Guardian CD is also available for other potent pain medicines prone to misuse, abuse, and diversion, including methadone, morphine, hydrocodone, and oxycodone.


Mirror-Image Drug Treats Pain Without Addiction Risk

In a major breakthrough, an international team of scientists has proven that addiction to morphine and heroin can be blocked, while at the same time increasing pain relief.

Laboratory studies have shown that the drug (+)-naloxone—a mirror-image drug to the widely known naloxone, or (-)-naloxone—will selectively block the immune-addiction response. The results, which could eventually lead to new co-formulated drugs that help patients with severe pain—as well as helping heroin users quit—were published in the Journal of Neuroscience. The studies have shown conclusive evidence that addiction can be blocked via the immune system of the brain, without targeting the brain’s wiring.

The team focused its research efforts on the immune receptor known as Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4). Opioid drugs such as morphine and heroin bind to TLR4 in a similar way to the normal immune response to bacteria; the problem is that TLR4 then acts as an amplifier for addiction.

The drug (+)-naloxone automatically shuts down the addiction, cuts out behaviors associated with addiction, and contributes to changes in the brain’s neurochemistry: Dopamine, the chemical important for providing that sense of “reward” from the drug, is no longer produced.

The study’s researchers say clinical trials may be possible within the next 18 months.


New App Offers Mobile Biosensor Technology

SecuraTrac, a provider of mobile health and safety solutions focused on protecting older adults, children, and employees, has announced the development of a new technology based on its award-winning mobile app, SecuraFone®. Developed in conjunction with Vital Connect, a next-generation biosensor and secure cloud technology, SecuraFone Health can alert physicians, caregivers, and family in real time when an unexpected health event occurs.

SecuraFone Health will benefit consumers, patients, physicians, and caregivers by detecting falls, caregiver-defined heart rate changes, and respiration rate changes, as well as other key vital signs. When an unexpected change is detected, the app will send a real-time alert including information about the user’s location and other key details to designated contacts.

SecuraFone Health uses a sensor worn by the user on his or her chest or back to monitor vitals 24 hours per day. Patches are water resistant, can be worn in the shower, and are worn for 2 to 3 days before needing to be replaced. They have up to a 50-foot communication radius for sending notifications to the user’s smartphone. The monthly service is tied to a 24/7 emergency response center with trained health care staff.

For more information, visit http://www.securafone.com.


Do You Have Any Product News to Share?

JPN would like to hear about it.

Please forward pertinent information to:
Journal of Psychosocial Nursing & Mental Health Services
6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086
Fax: (856) 848-6091
E-mail (preferred): jpn@healio.com