Treatment Options

- Loperamide 4 mg orally initially, then 2 mg with each loose stool, not to exceed 16 mg daily.
- Dicyclomine 20 mg every 6 to 8 hours as needed.
- Prochlorperazine 5 to 10 mg every 4 hours as needed.

Short-term oral medications can be utilized to assist with managing the withdrawal symptoms, individualized based on medical history, mental health diagnoses, and patient preference. Data shows that overdose risk is greater with long-acting preparations.

possible benefits, with the patient. Establish a plan to consider dose reduction, whenever possible, and ensure ongoing follow-up and reassessment. Consider test dose (0.1 mg oral) with blood pressure check before initiating taper. Review the taper plan, including the risks and benefits, the risks and benefits of continuing treatment, and the expected outcome with the patient. Establish a plan to consider dose reduction, whenever possible, and ensure ongoing follow-up and reassessment.

Considerations for tapered opioids during treatment

- UDTs should be performed periodically, including when a patient is taking tapered opioids.
- Tapering opioids can cause withdrawal effects, and patients should be treated with adjunctive medications to minimize these effects.
- Rapid tapers can cause withdrawal effects and patients should be treated with adjunctive medications to minimize these effects; may need to consider admitting to an inpatient facility.
- Evaluation of effectiveness should be periodically assessed during treatment with tapered opioids, including abstinence and lack of withdrawal symptoms.

References:


Possible causes for tapering: factors to consider when deciding on the appropriateness of tapering a patient, including medical history, mental health diagnoses, and patient preference. Data shows that overdose risk is greater with long-acting preparations.

Consider Test Dose

1. Tapering opioids can cause withdrawal effects, and patients should be treated with adjunctive medications to minimize these effects.
2. Consider test dose (0.1 mg oral) with blood pressure check before initiating taper.