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IMPROVE OPIOID PRESCRIBING PRACTICES AFTER DENTAL SURGERY



4 EVIDENCE- BASED REASONS

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Evidence. Resources. Engagement.

EVIDENCE SHOWS:

In outpatient dental surgery,
54% of opioids go unused¹

Reducing opioid prescribing improves the safety for patients, families, and communities

- From 2010 to 2016, the proportion of initial opioid prescriptions in dental care increased by 68%²
- In young adults, dentists are the leading prescribers of opioids³
- Overdose risk among family members increased when opioid prescriptions were dispensed to patients for a dental surgery⁴

NO CORRELATION

between patient satisfaction scores and amount of opioid prescribed⁵

Prescribing more opioids does not improve patient satisfaction

- Patients who used opioids after tooth extraction reported significantly higher levels of pain compared to those who did not use opioids, but no difference in satisfaction was observed⁵
- Patients who were prescribed fewer opioids reported using fewer opioids with no change in pain scores⁶

Acetaminophen and ibuprofen are **more effective** than opioids in managing pain^{7,8}



Using OTC medications to manage pain can decrease the need for opioids after dental surgery

- A combination of ibuprofen and acetaminophen is more effective than opioids for dental pain control and carries less risk for adverse events^{7,8}
- The ADA recommends NSAIDs as a first line therapy⁸

6.9% Of adolescents & young adults who receive opioids after dental surgery developed new persistent opioid use⁹

New persistent opioid use is one of the most common surgical complications

- In adolescents and young adults who received dental opioids, 5.8% had an opioid misuse or overdose related encounter⁹
- Filling an opioid prescription after wisdom tooth removal resulted in more than three times the risk of developing new persistent opioid use¹⁰
- Most adolescents believe that prescription opioids are safer than other substances of misuse¹¹

OPEN
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Recommendations

