

## TREATMENT CESSATION OFF OPIATE SUBSTITUTION THERAPY

## UTILISING LONG ACTING INJECTABLE BUPRENORPHINE

FACULTY OF
ADDICTION PSYCHIATRY
CONFERENCE 2023

DR MEL BAGSHAW AND DEBRA BOND [GP SHARED CARE, CARDIFF & VALE COMMUNITY ADDICTIONS UNIT, WALES]

Long acting injectable buprenorphine [LAB] was effective in enabling 28 patients to successfully detox off opiates. There was no correlation with age, sex, previous opiate taken, time on LAB or dose of LAB. 89% opted for no dose reduction before cessation. 100% experienced no withdrawals.

149 patients were prescribed LAB between June 2020 and January 2023 in the Cardiff and Vale GP OST shared care scheme. 28 patients chose to detox off LAB.

**Objectives:** Are there any common factors in patients deciding to detox.

**Method:** Telephone reviews were undertaken for 3 months after last LAB injection. Patients withdrawal symptoms, recurrence of illicit use, and patient wellbeing were explored. Patient data was reviewed to examine if particular factors were common amongst those patients that chose to detox.

RESULTS 82% MALE; 18% FEMALE. M- 30% 30s; 48% 40s; 22% 50s. F - 20% 30s; 40% in 40s & 50s.

46% previously on methadone; 36% oramucosal BPN;
4% co-codamol; 14% street heroin before switching to LAB.
Time on LAB was spread across 1 to 32 months. 29% on 64mg dose prior to stopping; 50% 96mg; 21% 128mg. Only 3 chose to reduce dose before stopping. Time since stopping LAB 1-14 months.
None had withdrawals or problems at 1/2/3 month review post detox. No patients have represented for treatment [so far].

CASE 1: 43 yr old man on OMBPN but continued illicit heroin and crack. Switched to LAB 'best thing for him'. Stopped after 9 months. Working FT, feeling 'amazing', no illicit use. 9 months off he feels his life is completely different and LAB helped him to move forward.

CASE 3: 43 yr old man. Stable on methadone for a long time but felt stuck. Life still controlled by his addiction. Switched to LAB; after 10 months decided to stop. Been off 10 months now, states he feels 'brand new'. Person he was prior to addiction issues [partner concurs]. He feels so thankful, LAB was a 'game changer' for him.

CASE 2: 54 yr old woman had started using **heroin 21 years** previously to cope with partners suicide. Brought up 3 children [one is now in navy]. In and out of service and criminal justice. Heroin and some crack use. Tried **methadone** and **OMBPN**. Was in GPSC on **100ml methadone** when accidentally fell off script. **Started LAB**. Found it 'amazing'. No further heroin use. Detoxed after 10 months and remained off. Volunteering and regularly seeing her family.









