

Prolonged Opioid Use After Surgery

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Prolonged opioid use after surgery causes substance abuse and opioid use disorders. Physicians are prescribing opioids at high dosages and for longer durations of time than recommended amount. The hypothesis states that physicians are one of the main reasons for prolonged opioid use after surgical operations and the use of opioids prior to an operation is closely linked with persistent opioid use after the operation. Multiple studies were examined to find similar trends on persistent opioid use after surgical operations. Studies took information from insurance claims and prescription history to collect data. Opioids are a highly addictive medication used to relieve pain. Opioids are highly addictive because they activate the reward system in the human body creating pleasurable and happy feelings. People who use opioids for long durations develop disorders such as tolerance, dependence and addiction. All the studies were examined and had similar outcomes, about six percent of patients who underwent a surgical operation, ended up refilling an opioid prescription 3 to 6 months after the operation. Experiments that had patients taking an opioid prescription prior to the operation showed a link with opioid use pre-surgery and persistent use post-surgery.