Comparison of intranasal and intramuscular naloxone in opioid overdoses managed by ambulance staff: a double dummy, randomised, controlled trial

Arne Skulberg, MD, Ph. D. Consultant anaesthetist, Oslo University Hospital Air Ambulance Department

LISBON ADDICTIONS, Wednesday, 23 November, 2022



Conflict of interest

NTNU has licence agreement with Farmaholding AS to commercialise a naloxone nasal spray, Ventizolve 1.26 mg naloxone

NTNU has full ownership of all data in this trial, and Farmaholding AS or others have not been part of analysis or interpretation of results

Prof Ola Dale may earn royalties from any sale of nasal spray through NTNU/ TTO

I have no benefit, financial or in-kind from the sale of any naloxone product



Received: 19 May 2021 Accepted: 22 December 2021

DOI: 10.1111/add.15806

RESEARCH REPORT

ADDICTION **SSA**

Comparison of intranasal and intramuscular naloxone in opioid overdoses managed by ambulance staff: a double-dummy, randomised, controlled trial

Arne Kristian Skulberg^{1,2,3} | Ida Tylleskär^{1,4} | Morten Valberg⁵ | Anne-Cathrine Braarud² | Jostein Dale^{3,4} | Fridtjof Heyerdahl^{2,3} | Tore Skålhegg² | Jan Barstein⁴ | Sindre Mellesmo² | Ola Dale¹



Design

Hypothesis: Intranasal naloxone in not inferior to intramuscular

Primary endpoint: Restoration of spontaneous respiration within 10 minutes

Inclusion criteria: Suspected opioid overdose unconscious reduced breathing miosis





Drugs compared

Intramuscular 0.8 mg / 2ml naloxone

VS

intranasal 1.4 mg/0.1 ml naloxone





Double dummy design allows blinding









Baseline at inclusion

		Overall %
	0	28
Respiratory rate (breaths per minute)	1-4	41
	5-8	31
	3/15	78
Glasgow Coma Score	4-11/15	22



Results

How many achieved spontaneous breathing within 10 min after one dose of the study drug?



Results

How many achieved spontaneous breathing within 10 min after one dose of the study drug?

Intramuscular group: 105 of 108 participants (97.2%)

Intranasal 74 of 98 participants (79.6%)



Adverse Events

	Treatment Group		
	Intramuscular n= 129	Intranasal n=109	
Bradycardia		1	
Nausea	5	7	
Vomiting		2	
Drug withdrawal			
syndrome	15	5	
Dizziness	1		
Headache	5	4	



Conclusion

Intramuscular naloxone 0.8 mg had almost 100% effect- too high for itration

Intranasal naloxone 1.4 mg/ dose 80% effect end well tolerated



Thank you

Ola Dale Ida Tylleskar Ambulance workers in Oslo and Trondheim Co- authors Oslo University Hospital NTNU St. Olav's Hospital



Munhun