



Association for
Palliative Medicine

Article of the Month

December 2016

Frequency and Predictors of Acute Hospitalization before Death in Patients with Glioblastoma

J Pain Symptom Manage. 2016 Oct 31

Diamond EL, Panageas KS, Dallara A, et al

This case-control study examined factors associated with acute hospital admission within one month of death in 385 patients with GBM. Nearly half were admitted within a month of death, mostly to manage neurologic decline. Of these, a third were admitted to ICU. In-hospital chaplaincy and being in a clinical trial, were associated with hospital admission within one month of death.

[Click here](#) to view the full article

Efficacy and safety of two methadone titration methods for the treatment of cancer-related pain: The EQUIMETH2 trial (methadone for cancer-related pain)

J Pain Symptom Manage. 2016 Sep 29.

Poulain P, Berleur MP, Lefki S et al

A multicentre randomized controlled trial was used to assess the effectiveness of stop-and-go and progressive methadone titration in patients with cancer pain who did not have adequate pain relief or side effects from strong opioids. Most patients had improvement in pain (≥ 2 point reduction on the visual scale and a pain score < 5 for 2 consecutive days); this was maintained for the 56 day follow-up period; there was no difference between groups. In both groups, 84% had adverse events; respiratory depression occurred in 12-14%.

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Prepared by Jason Boland, on behalf of the APM Science Committee