

SouthCoast

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a practicing physiatrist in the State of Georgia and previously have practiced in the State of Connecticut, I have encountered many patients with pain. In my experience, literature has indicated that patients who have chronic pain and have failed conservative management with the use of non-opioid medications, often use from a longer-acting opioid. Numerous encounters with patients and treatment has indicated that longer-acting opioids, such as OxyContin, have been a God-send in improving function and quality of life.

Not too infrequently, I have heard that patients have "gotten their life back" and have been able to function better with the use of longer-acting pain medications, namely medications such as, OxyContin. With regular follow-up evaluation and alteration of dosages, we can maximize the patient's improvement and functional status and minimize negative effects.

It is important to have routine follow-up on these patients and not be cavalier in prescribing these medications. It is important to have guidelines in following these patients. However, they do have a significant benefit in patient's lives in the appropriate candidates. I believe the gains of prescribing these medications for the appropriate indication and patient vastly outweigh the potential abuse from other patients or individuals who illegally obtain these medications.

I am concerned we will fall prey to the hype regarding this medication from the media sensations that people have allowed to arise. It is important look at the individual cases of the patients who have been treated for malignant and non-malignant pain and observe the improvements they have had. I am hoping we will be able to continue to use this medication in chronic non-malignant pain. Long-acting opioids do have a role. They provide for improved function when prescribed with discretion and careful observation.

Hopefully, this letter illustrates the benefit that medication, such as OxyContin, can have and hope that there will not be a rush to cause restrictions, which will worsen the effect of its benefit already received by those who have been on this medication.

Sincerely,


EDWARD G. ALLCOCK, D.O.

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