

Private Clinic

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Rossville, Georgia 30741
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August 16th 2001

Attention: Kimberly Topper
FDA

Dear committee members:

Because of all the recent news about OxyContin abuse I have been observing our new intakes for methadone treatment and specifically getting information about this agent. It is enlightening to see that of the 20 new patients we have had admitted in the last two weeks only four patients had as their primary drug of choice OxyContin. Of these four patients two had a extensive previous history of using hydrocodone products. Regarding the 16 other patients a number of them had tried OxyContin in the last few months and found it to be a second or third choice of an opiate they would abuse. One of our new patients gave the history of abusing OxyContin stating that he used the OxyContin patch (there is no patch available). This history suggested to me that a number of patients believe they are taking the current popular drug and actually are not.

From my medical perspective, from treating chemically dependent persons over the last 16 years it is clear to me that certain drugs are favored by certain individuals. This is the case with OxyContin, but has also been the case with Talwin, Darvocet, Ultram, codeine, percocet, Lorcet, Stadol, etc. In summary OxyContin certainly can cause chemical dependence, but this is similar to any other opiate or opiate like drug. In chronic pain patients who need opiate treatment this medication, OxyContin has been a live saver. Please take these experiences from our clinic into consideration during your committee proceedings.

Sincerely,
Mark W. Peterson M.D.
Board Certified Addiction Psychiatry

