

Opioid Efficacy for Chronic Pain

Meta-analyses (3-6 m f/u)

- **Opioids vs placebo**
(high quality studies)
Opioids with statistically significant, but small, improvements in pain^{1,2} and physical functioning²
- **Opioids vs nonopioids**
(low-mod quality studies)
Similar benefits²

RCT³ found opioids **not superior** to nonopioids for improving musculoskeletal pain-related function over 12 months

*Limitations to generalizability:*⁴

- *Excluded patients already on long-term opioids*
- *89% of eligible patients declined to be enrolled*

Two longer term follow-up studies found **44.3%** on chronic opioids for chronic pain had **at least 50% pain relief**⁵

Source: Boston University SCOPE of Pain (www.scopeofpain.org)

1. Meske DS, et al. *J Pain Res.* 2018

2. Busse JW, et al. *JAMA.* 2018

3. Krebs EE, et al. *JAMA.* 2018

4. Webster L. *Pain Med.* 2019

5. Noble M, et al. *Cochrane Syst Rev.* 2010

