

OP29.3

Opioid drugs in primary care. Observational survey

*Giampiero Giuzio, GB D'Errico, L Iannantuoni
Health Local Agency, Foggia, Italy*

*Corresponding author: Dr Leonida Iannantuoni, School Specific Training in General
Medicine, Family Medicine, Foggia, Italy. E-mail: leo.iannantuoni@libero.it*

Data on national health expenditure showed that the use of opiate drugs in Italy is still below the European average (5.2 DDD / 1000 in 2014), with noticeable regional differences between north and south of Italy (north 68%, center 26%, south 6% in 2011).

In order to understand the reason of this difference, a questionnaire was given to general practitioners and emergency medical services. The questionnaire is composed of 15 questions, structured according to a previous focus group on the topic of opiates in primary care. Morphinofobia has been for years a barrier to the use of these drugs for effective treatment of pain.

The inquiry revealed a good knowledge of the drugs and their use but also doubts on the manageability of side effects, the treatment of breakthrough pain, but mostly the fear for addiction, tolerance and severe side effects and a poor perception of the benefits of these drugs in the treatment of moderate to severe pain such as handling, no ceiling effect, indicated in breakthrough pain, absent risk of gastrointestinal side effects, renal toxicity or side effects of cardiovascular nature.