

# Preoperative narcotic use doesn't worsen surgical outcomes

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(HealthDay)—For patients undergoing primary spinal deformity surgery, postoperative outcomes are improved for those taking narcotics preoperatively and for those not taking narcotics, according to a study published in the Dec. 1 issue of *The Spine Journal*.

Addisu Mesfin, M.D., from the University of Rochester in New York, and colleagues conducted a retrospective study of prospectively collected data involving 253 [adult patients](#) undergoing primary spinal deformity surgery (168 nonnarcotic patients [NoNarc]; 85 patients taking [narcotics](#) before surgery). The authors examined the role of preoperative narcotic use and its effect on outcome after spinal deformity surgery. Patients were followed for a minimum of two years (average, 47.4 months).

The researchers found that at the latest follow-up, 88 percent of NoNarc

patients were still not taking narcotics, whereas 61 percent of prior narcotics patients were off narcotics (P

"Thus, narcotic use in selected primary degenerative scoliosis [patients](#) may not be as much of a negative predictor of outcome as has been previously perceived," the authors write.

One author and his institution disclosed financial ties to the medical device industry.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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