

Older age, ICU, poor renal fcn up risk of opioid OD in hospital

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(HealthDay)—Risk factors for opioid overdose among hospitalized

patients include being age 65 years or older, being in an intensive care unit (ICU), and having renal impairment, according to a study published online May 23 in the *Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics*.

Quyen Vu, Pharm.D., from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, and colleagues examined risk factors for [opioid overdose](#). Data were included for 44 cases of opioid overdose and 88 controls (no overdose) from a single institution.

The researchers found that being age 65 years or older (40.9 versus 29.5 percent; $P = 0.026$), being in an ICU (medical ICU/cardiac ICU: 27.3 versus 3.4 percent; P renal impairment (estimated [glomerular filtration rate](#) ≤ 60 : 50 versus 28.4 percent; $P = 0.034$) were associated with opioid overdose. The overdose group had lower total 24-hour opioid dose, but the difference was not statistically significant (71.9 versus 107.2 mg morphine equivalent; $P = 0.116$). Overdose cases were more likely to have received concomitant central nervous system antidepressants; only those receiving three or more had a statistically significant difference (15.9 versus 0 percent; P

"These findings may help with the development and implementation of measures to prevent overdose," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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