

Tobacco use linked with higher use of opioids and sedatives

January 10 2019



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Tobacco is a known risk factor for the misuse of prescription opioids. In addition, concurrent use of opioids and sedative-hypnotics is a risk factor for opioid overdose or addiction.

In an *American Journal on Addictions* study, tobacco users were more likely to receive prescriptions for opioid analgesics with muscle relaxants and/or benzodiazepines than people who did not use tobacco.

The findings, which come from an annual survey of visits to office-based physicians in outpatient settings in the United States, suggest that appropriate caution should be exercised while co-prescribing [opioid analgesics](#) with muscle relaxants and/or benzodiazepines among tobacco users to prevent prescription drug addiction.

More information: Hiroko Takaki et al. The association of tobacco use with prescription of muscle relaxants, benzodiazepines, and opioid analgesics for non-cancer pain, *The American Journal on Addictions* (2019). [DOI: 10.1111/ajad.12830](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajad.12830)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Tobacco use linked with higher use of opioids and sedatives (2019, January 10) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-01-tobacco-linked-higher-opioids-sedatives.html>

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