Objectives

- Recognize the extensive impact of opioid exposure occurring prenatally and in the therapeutic environment of the neonatal intensive care setting including the characteristics and management of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
- Outline the pain assessment and clinical management approaches for opioid use in the care of chronically ill infants and those receiving palliative care
- Describe the study findings involving an atypical withdrawal syndrome observed in neonates who experienced prenatal exposure to gabapentin and opioids
- Summarize the neurodevelopmental findings at 20 months corrected age for extremely low birth weight (ELBW) infants receiving opioid therapy while in the neonatal intensive care setting

Content Outline

1. Neonatal Pain Assessment & Management
   1.1 Pain assessment tools
   1.2 Range of common pharmaceutical approaches
   1.3 Non-pharmacologic adjuncts to pain management
   1.4 Addressing the needs of chronically ill & dying NICU patients
   1.5 Overview of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)

2. Atypical Withdrawal Syndrome in Neonates Experiencing Prenatal Exposure to Gabapentin & Opioids
   2.1 Overview of study including documentation of maternal prenatal drug use
   2.2 Study approach to neonates at risk for NAS
   2.3 Approved & off-label uses of gabapentin
   2.4 Proposed hypotheses for opioid potentiation by gabapentin
   2.5 Study findings & limitations

3. Overview of NICU Opioid Therapy in Extremely Low Birth Weight Infants (ELBW)
   3.1 Description of study comparing cumulative opioid exposure in ELBW infants and neurodevelopment at 20 months corrected age (CA)
   3.2 Study results of neurodevelopment outcomes
   3.3 Study limitations

Reading Material Resources

Module WB1919: Neonatal Opioid Therapy- Further Considerations is based on the 3 resources listed below. A copy of each resource is included with the module.

