

# **Value of Hospital Pain Management Consultation in Opioid Dependent Patients Undergoing Total Joint Arthroplasty**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

Preoperative pain management consultations have been widely utilized to help combat the growing concern of opioid addiction and dependency. This study aims to evaluate the impact and value of pain management consults in patients undergoing total joint arthroplasty.

**METHODS:** A retrospective review of all patients who underwent total joint arthroplasty from January 2020 to October 2023 at an orthopedic specialty hospital identified 358 patients who were 18 years and older and received a pain management consult. Medical record review included length of stay, 30-day readmissions, 7-day visits to the emergency department, age, and medical comorbidities. The pain management cohort was matched, using inverse probability weighting, to patients that did not receive a pain management consult. The covariates in the match were based on demographics associated with a higher risk of opioid dependency: depression, bipolar disorder, chronic pain, and current opioid use. Surgical outcomes were then compared between the cohorts using bivariate analysis and multivariate modeling.

**RESULTS:** The inverse probability weighting match included all subjects, 358 patients who received pain management consults and 15,630 without pain management consult. The cohort receiving pain management consultation had significantly lower risk of opioid-related readmissions within 30 days post-operation (OR=0.731, p=0.022) and significantly lower risk of postoperative emergency department visits within 7 days (OR=0.502, p<0.001). Utilization of a pain management consult significantly increased length of stay by 20-hours stay (p<0.001).

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:** Utilization of hospital pain management consultations following total joint arthroplasty should be considered in patients with an increased risk for opioid dependency.