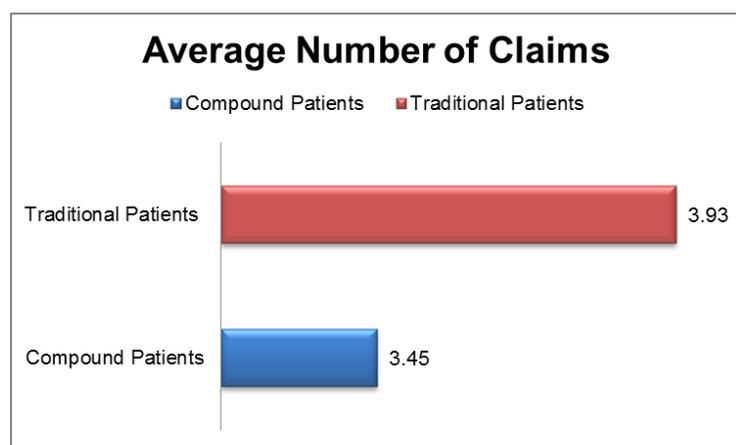


Patients on topical compounds for pain use less opioid medications

America claims less than 5% of the world’s population, yet it consumes roughly 80% of the world’s opioid supply [1]. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths from drug overdose have been rising steadily over the past two decades and have become the leading cause of injury death in the United States [2]. It is estimated that the abuse of opioid analgesics results in over \$72 billion in medical costs alone each year [3], comparable to costs related to other chronic diseases such as asthma and HIV [4-5].

Topical prescription compounds have been shown to be viable options for the treatment of neuropathic, osteoarthritic, oncologic and other complex chronic pain syndromes. These products commonly include Amitriptyline 2% -10%, Gabapentin 5%-10%, Imipramine 2% - 10%, Ketamine 5% - 10%, Ketoprofen 10%, Lidocaine 1% - 10%, amongst others. The clinical basis for using these agents as optimal alternatives to systemic therapy for the treatment of pain is predicated on their mechanism of action and the receptors accessible from dermal application of these ingredients. Several studies including anecdotal reports, case reports or case series, cohort analyses and clinical trials have evaluated the efficacy and clinical impact of topical prescription compounds compared to traditional therapy for the treatment of pain.

The study assessed 4,607 users of compound pain gels, of whom 4,032 (88%) also used



traditional pain drugs, and 1,192,471 users of traditional pain medications. The results showed that the one-year number of compound claims per compound-treated patient is 3.45 (3.58 nonelderly), and the one-year number of traditional pain drug claims per patient treated with traditional pain drugs is 3.93 (3.85

nonelderly). This indicates that using topical compounds for the treatment of pain could reduce utilization of traditional opioids by approximately 14%.

The development of evidenced-based policies by Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committees to inform formulary decisions around the coverage of compounded medications, and the resulting effect on patient access to compounded therapies, must be informed by clinical evidence as well as cost considerations based on actual historical claims information. The results from this study show that topical compounded medications for pain play a valuable role in the treatment options available to prescribers. When clinically appropriate, compounds can reduce the utilization of opioid analgesics and the costs associated with abuse, dependence and addiction to opioid analgesics.

Learn more at www.personalmedrx.com and request information about the [compounding program analysis](#).

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