

Appendix. Questionnaire regarding opioids

Investigation of pain physicians' prescribing patterns and current situation of opioids (English version)

1. How long is the operation period of the pain clinic?

- ① Below 3 years ② 3-5 years ③ 6-10 years ④ More than 10 years

2. For what diseases are opioids prescribed frequently in the pain clinic? (Select up to three)

- ① Spinal or joint pain ② Postherpetic neuralgia ③ Peripheral neuropathy ④ Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS)
⑤ Fibromyalgia ⑥ End stage cancer

3. What is the proportion of patients prescribed opioids?

- ① < 10% ② 10%-19% ③ 20%-29% ④ 30%-39% ⑤ ≥ 40% (show specific figures)

4. What are the pain scores (NRS, VAS) for prescribing opioids for the first time? (0, no pain -10; the greatest pain one can think of)

- ① 3 ② 4 ③ 5 ④ 6 ⑤ 7 or more

5. What is the pain relief goals when prescribing opioids?

- ① 25% ② 50% ③ 75% ④ 100%

6. Whether side effects are explained when prescribing opioids?

- ① Not at all ② Explained roughly ③ Explained actively

7. What is the ratio of two or more opioids prescribed when prescribing opioids?

- ① < 10% ② 10%-19% ③ 20%-29% ④ 30%-39% ⑤ ≥ 40%

8. How long is the normal duration of opioid prescription? (Commonly prescribed period)

- ① 1 week ② 2 weeks ③ 3 weeks ④ 4 weeks ⑤ More than 4 weeks

9. Whether opioids with breakthrough pain are prescribed to patients taking opioids?

- ① No prescription
② Prescribe immediate-release (IR) opioids if needed (PRN)
③ Allow patients to take additional medications that they are currently taking

10. Opioids used to control pain may not be sufficiently prescribed because of the limited 30 days of public insurance coverage. What is your opinion of the prescription period being limited by the National Health Insurance?

- ① Appropriate ② Should be increased ③ Should be decreased

11. If increasing the limited prescription day is needed, select the reason.

- ① Patient's convenience
② Doctor's convenience
③ There is no need to limit the medicine because it is safe.
④ Other opinion ()

12. If decreasing the limited prescription day is needed, select the reason.

- ① Concerns regarding abuse and addiction
② Need to monitor effects and side effects
③ Other opinion ()

13. What is your opinion on the prescription dose limit?

- ① Appropriate ② Should be increased ③ Should be decreased

14. If increasing the limited prescription dose is needed, select the reason.

- ① Additional drugs are required due to limited drug quantity.
- ② Reduction in analgesic effect due to drug tolerance
- ③ There is no need to limit the medicine because it is safe.
- ④ Other opinion ()

15. If decreasing the limited prescription dose is needed, select the reason.

- ① Concerns regarding abuse and addiction
- ② Need to monitor effects and side effects
- ③ Other opinion ()

16. What are the three major factors you consider when prescribing opioid?

- ① Side effects ② Persistent efficacy ③ Rapid effect
- ④ Patient compliance ⑤ Health insurance ⑥ Patient's financial burden
- ⑦ Other opinion ()

17. What are the most common side effects of opioid that you have experienced? (Mark two items)

- ① Constipation ② Nausea or vomiting ③ Dizziness ④ Dysuria ⑤ Abuse or addiction

18. What are the side effects of opioids that you are most worried about? (Mark two items)

- ① Constipation ② Nausea or vomiting ③ Dizziness ④ Dysuria ⑤ Abuse or addiction

19. How much is the patients' compliance with opioids (degree to which a prescription is taken correctly) (what%)?

- ① Below 25% ② 25%-50% ③ 51%-75% ④ 76% or more

20. What is the prevalence of opioid abuse?

- ① Below 5% ② 5%-10% ③ 11%-25% ④ 26%-50% ⑤ 51%-75%

21. What is the prevalence of opioid addiction?

- ① Below 5% ② 5%-10% ③ 11%-25% ④ 26%-50% ⑤ 51%-75%