Abstract

Objective. Clinical trials with heroin (diacetylmorphine) bring an alternative to the available therapeutic possibilities for addict people. The purpose of this article is to describe the experiences and results of clinical studies centered on the therapeutic use of heroin. Method. Literature review of studies and clinical trials, centered on the intervention with opioid-dependent patients. The databases consulted were: EMBASE, ScienceDirect, Wiley Blackwell, PubMed, Bio-Med Central, Medline, Ovid. The descriptors: «heroin», «diacetylmorphine», «clinical trial», «survey». Results. The literature review revealed the existence of 42 references, of which 16 presented the results of clinical trials in Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Canada, Spain and United Kingdom, starting with 1994. Other references are centered on uptake and involvement of the drug, mortality quality of life/ side effects and need for further research and clinical trials. Conclusions. Clinical studies carried out until the present show heterogeneity in the methods and variables used, but the objectives are the same (based on assessing the effects of the therapeutic use of heroin) and the results confirm the safety and effectiveness of medical prescription of diacetylmorphine.

Keywords

Heroin dependence, opioid-related disorders, drugs investigational, clinical Trials.