Effects of Reformulating OxyContin on Opioid Abuse in 6 National US Abuse Surveillance Systems
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INTRODUCTION

Objective

The abuse of opioid analgesics is a source of morbidity and mortality in the United States (US). Opioid formulations with abuse deterrent properties have been proposed as an approach to reduce abuse of opioid products via routes that require tampering. Abuse through non-oral routes can increase the desirability of opioids because of the resulting rapid availability of the opioid (chewing and swallowing, or drinking) or non-oral routes. Abuse through non-oral routes can occur from the pill mill shutdown, REMS) and OxyContin-specific trends in abuse.

METHODS

OBJECTIVES

To assess changes in abuse rates of OxyContin from one year before to three years after reformulation of OxyContin with abuse-deterrent properties.

To compare changes in abuse for OxyContin with changes in abuse of other opioid products, using the year prior to introduction of reformulated OxyContin (July 2009 to June 2010) as the pre-reformulation period.

To assess the consistency and robustness of the results across different methods.

RESULTS

Figure 2. Change in population-adjusted abuse rates for OxyContin and Comparators

Figure 3. Percent change in prescription-adjusted rates of abuse from the pre-to post-reformulation periods of OxyContin and comparator opioids

CONCLUSIONS

Reductions in rates of abuse of OxyContin observed both the year before and the three years after reformulation of OxyContin in two poison center studies, a substance abuse treatment study, a drug diversion surveillance study, and an analysis of findings reported to the FDA. These consistent results support the hypothesis that the reformulation of OxyContin was associated with decreases in prescription of OxyContin in a national prescription database. Thus both population-based and prescription-based measures indicated that rates of OxyContin abuse decreased significantly.

Disclosure Statement

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