

# Take Aways

- Abrupt opioid cessation can lead to withdrawal due to the up-regulation of molecular pathways.
- In addition to the diagnostic criteria for opioid withdrawal, the COWS can be used to classify the severity of withdrawal, which is useful for buprenorphine induction and track changes in the severity of withdrawal.
- Medical management of opioid withdrawal includes opioid agonists (e.g. methadone and buprenorphine) in addition to other symptomatic management such as  $\alpha$ -agonists.



# Additional References

- DynaMed. Opioid Withdrawal. EBSCO Information Services. Accessed November 18, 2022. <https://www.dynamed.com/condition/opioid-withdrawal>
- AMBOSS. Opioid Withdrawal. Accessed November 18, 2022. <https://next.amboss.com/us/article/Ss0y8h>