

Case

Case Wrap Up

- After initial symptom management, you and the patient ultimately decide to add tramadol to the patient's existing methadone dose.
- After completing rifampin therapy, the patient returns to her previous methadone routine and follows up with her addiction medicine provider.



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 α -agonists.