



## Commentary on “Opioid prescription use in patients with interstitial cystitis”

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Received: 23 March 2020 / Accepted: 31 March 2020  
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This population-based outpatient analysis [1] was aimed at quantifying and characterising recent opioid use in patients diagnosed with interstitial cystitis. The authors aimed to gain an initial insight into the degree of opioid use associated with interstitial cystitis. Data were obtained from a database known as the Virginia All Payer Claims Database (VAPCD) during the period 2011 to 2016.

The authors identified patients 15 years or older with a diagnosis of interstitial cystitis based on the International Classification of Disease (ICD) 9th or 10th generation codes 595.1 and N30.10 respectively. A total of 6,884 patients were identified with at least one interstitial cystitis diagnosis. Results of the study showed that a significant number of patients with interstitial cystitis receive opioid prescriptions, with 28% of patients in their cohort receiving at least one throughout the study period. Another notable finding of the study is the significant proportion of outpatient encounters associated with an opioid prescription (26%).

The authors present an interesting study on the use of opioids in patients with interstitial cystitis. Limitations of the

study include the absence of clinical detail in the VAPCD, which prevents understanding of information, including provider specialty, prescription quantity and comorbidities. Also, as they included patients within 30 days of the outpatient encounter, it is possible that some of these were associated with a separate diagnosis. Finally, the database is only limited to residents in the state of Virginia, and therefore may not be generalisable.

### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflicts of interest** None.

### Reference

1. Zillioux J, Clements M, Pike CW, Rapp D. Opioid prescription use in patients with interstitial cystitis. *Int J Urogynecol.* 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00192-019-04214-2>.

**Publisher's note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

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