**Title**: Predictors Of Opioid Misuse In A Sample Of Patients With Chronic Pain Taking Daily Prescription Opioids.

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**Abstract**: Factors associated with prescription opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) in chronic pain treatment are limited, and enhancing our understanding of these factors could lead to more targeted intervention approaches and inform precision medicine. The current study examines factors associated with problematic prescription opioid use among patients with chronic pain taking daily prescription opioids, and whether assessing emotional processes – ambivalence over emotional expression (AEQ) – improve understanding of problematic prescription opioid use beyond traditional risk factors. The current study administered the Current Opioid Misuse Measures (COMM) to assess opioid misuse severity and the DSM-5 (OUD) symptoms to assess OUD status (at least 2). Participants were 288 patients with chronic pain (mean age=54.9 years, SD=12.2, 77.8% female, 89.2% White) who completed baseline assessments as part of a larger trial. We assessed demographic and clinical factors, cognitive and emotion coping variables (pain catastrophizing, AEQ), and psychosocial correlates (depression, anxiety, and anger). Stepwise regression analyses identified significant predictors of greater opioid misuse as greater anger (β=0.55), followed by higher AEQ score (β=0.27), higher PCS scores (β=0.19), and being Non-White (β=0.11, *ps* < .021). Similarly, stepwise logistic regression revealed greater odds of opioid use disorder was associated with higher AEQ scores (OR=1.06), followed by higher PCS scores (OR=1.05), and being non-White (OR=2.53, *ps<*0.05). Notably, pain intensity was not a significant predictor for opioid misuse nor OUD status. Findings reveal that in addition to traditional risk factors, AEQ emerges as a modifiable risk factor – and thus potential treatment target – for prescription opioid misuse and opioid use disorder.

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