

Development of the Revised Opioid Risk Tool to Predict Opioid Use Disorder in Patients with Chronic Nonmalignant Pain

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Abstract: The Opioid Risk Tool (ORT) is a commonly used measure of risk of aberrant drug-related behaviors in patients with chronic pain prescribed opioid therapy. In this study, the discriminant predictive validity of the ORT was evaluated in a unique cohort of patients with chronic nonmalignant pain (CNMP) on long-term opioid therapy who displayed no evidence of developing an opioid use disorder (OUD) and a sample of patients with CNMP who developed an OUD after commencing opioid therapy. Results revealed that the original ORT was able to discriminate between patients with and without OUDs (odds ratio = 1.624; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 1.539–1.715, $P < .001$). A weighted ORT eliminating the gender-specific history of preadolescent sexual abuse item revealed comparable results (odds ratio = 1.648, 95% CI = 1.539–1.742, $P < .001$). A revised unweighted ORT removing the history of preadolescent sexual abuse item was notably superior in predicting the development of OUD in patients with CNMP on long-term opioid therapy (odds ratio = 3.085; 95% CI = 2.725–3.493; $P < .001$) with high specificity (.851; 95% CI = .811–.885), sensitivity (.854; 95% CI = .799–.898), positive predictive value (.757; 95% CI = .709–.799), and negative predictive value (.914; 95% CI = .885–.937).

Perspective: The revised ORT is the first tool developed on a unique cohort to predict the risk of developing an OUD in patients with CNMP receiving opioid therapy, as opposed to aberrant drug-related behaviors that can reflect a number of other issues. The revised ORT has clinical usefulness in providing clinicians a simple, validated method to rapidly screen for the risk of developing OUD in patients on or being considered for opioid therapy.

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Key words: Opioid Risk Tool, chronic nonmalignant pain, opioid use disorder, long-term opioid therapy.

Both chronic pain and the harms associated with prescription opioid abuse, including serious adverse events and fatalities, are enormous public health problems. In parallel with an increase in long-term opioid use for chronic nonmalignant pain (CNMP), the abuse of prescription opioids in the United States

escalated >113% between 2004 and 2013.¹⁹ Safe and effective administration of opioid therapy is recognized as requiring initial and ongoing assessment of the risks related to prescription drug abuse and potential for developing an opioid use disorder (OUD).¹⁶ Recent clinical guidelines and professional society position papers

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Revised Opioid Risk Tool

for opioid prescribing recommend that, before initiating opioid therapy in selected candidates, providers should screen patients to identify those at risk for developing an OUD.^{1,9,13,14,18,33} Efforts are underway to identify significant risk factors for the development of OUD, so that patient selection can be more informed, and the monitoring of those who receive these medications is appropriate to the level of risk severity. Accordingly, a number of validated risk assessment tools have been published to predict the likelihood that a specific patient will develop nonadherence behaviors with prescribed opioid therapy that could indicate possible misuse/abuse problems or an OUD.³⁰ There are prescreening tools that were developed to assess risk in patients being considered for opioid therapy such as the Opioid Risk Tool (ORT),³¹ Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients with Pain,³ and the Diagnosis, Intractability, Risk, Efficacy.² Other tools were designed to monitor for signs of nonadherence, misuse/abuse in patients currently prescribed opioids, for example, the Current Opioid Misuse Measure⁴

However, recent systematic reviews evaluating the predictive validity of these tools have revealed significant limitations.^{8,28} To date, the extant data are sparse, and the evidence on the accuracy of these tools in predicting abuse is relatively poor overall. For example, the sensitivity and specificity of the most commonly used tools (ORT, Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients with Pain-Revised, and Brief Risk Interview) ranges from .25 to .83 and .43 to .88, respectively, and the likelihood ratios show poor predictive accuracy.²⁷ In addition, it has been argued that these tools were designed to assess the risk of developing aberrant drug-related behaviors (ADRB; aberrant opioid use behaviors or opioid misuse), which are reported to be highly prevalent in pain populations (>40%) and were not specifically developed or validated to predict the more serious outcome of OUD.⁵ To better guide patient selection for opioid therapy and promote the use of risk monitoring strategies and alternate therapies that improve treatment outcomes in patients at risk for developing OUD, tools with improved predictive validity are urgently needed.

Among the most promising screening tools presently available is the ORT.³¹ Developed by Webster and Webster³¹ in 2005, this brief, clinician-administered, self-report tool was designed for use in primary care populations to assess the potential for opioid-related ADRB among adults who are candidates for commencing opioid therapy for CNMP. The 10 items assess family history of substance abuse, personal history of substance abuse, age (between 16 and 45 years), history of preadolescent sexual abuse (in women only), and the presence of psychiatric disease (attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depressive disorder). Each item is assigned a weight ranging from 5 to 1 and scoring is stratified by gender, with total scores summed to specify a low, moderate, or high level of risk. Although intended to predict the development of opioid-related ADRB, the items characterize known risk factors for

substance use disorder (SUD) in general (eg, age, psychiatric comorbidities, and history of childhood trauma)^{11,32} and, thus, is appropriate for a more extensive evaluation of its accuracy in predicting the development of OUD in patients with CNMP.

A large, ongoing study assessing the genotypic and phenotypic characteristics of OUD in patients with CNMP⁷ provided a unique opportunity to more extensively evaluate the ORT in terms of its discriminant predictive validity for OUD. In the parent study sample, approximately one-third of patients with CNMP recruited had developed a new OUD after the initiation of prescribed opioids. This permitted both the psychometric evaluation of the ORT in a large sample of patients with chronic pain with and without OUDs, and initial exploration of whether evidence from this analysis would support the current weighting structure of the ORT, and yield data to guide the creation of a shorter, more robust tool for clinical use. After conducting a factor analysis, the original versus revised tools were compared in terms of sensitivity and specificity, and positive and negative predictive values, using a split-half methodology that involved testing in one-half of the sample, with subsequent validation on the remaining half.

Methods

This is a secondary analysis of baseline data collected from 1178 patients who consented to participate in a cross-sectional, naturalistic study to create a phenotypic and genotypic profile of patients' risk factors for the development of OUD when receiving long-term opioid therapy (LTOT) for CNMP.⁷ Control patients (patients with CNMP on LTOT displaying no evidence of an OUD) were recruited from multiple ambulatory pain and primary care practices and cases (patients with CNMP with no previous history of a SUD who developed an OUD after commencing LTOT) were recruited from substance abuse treatment facilities in urban and surrounding suburban areas of the Northeast, Pacific Northwest, and Midwest. These sites included the Philadelphia region (University of Pennsylvania and suburbs), Seattle (University of Washington and suburbs), Salt Lake City (Lifetree Clinical Research and Pain Clinic and suburbs), and Boston (Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School). Patients entered the study between November 2012 and July 2018. The University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, Lifetree, and Harvard University Institutional Review Boards approved the protocol and patients provided written consent before participating.

Participants and Procedures

Participants were patients with CNMP identified and recruited through referrals from practice physicians and staff, and those who consented for study eligibility using information from the electronic medical record (EMR) and self-report measures were screened for eligibility. Specifically, adult patients (age ≥ 18) were considered eligible if they were Caucasian and of European

descent (ie, 3 of 4 grandparents were of European origin) and the EMR indicated they had CNMP of musculoskeletal or neuropathic origin persisting ≥ 6 months in duration and had been receiving LTOT defined as receiving opioids consistently (monthly prescriptions) for ≥ 6 months. The genotypic objectives of the parent study precluded the inclusion of patients of non-Caucasian races and ethnicities. Patients with pain syndromes owing to cancer; gynecologic, abdominal, visceral, dental, trigeminal neuralgia, poststroke syndrome, or migraine-related pain; neuropathic pain owing to metabolic disease; or severe psychiatric conditions preventing the provision of informed consent or questionnaire completion, were excluded.

Classification of Patients With OUD and Without OUD

The EMR was reviewed for each participant from 6 months before the date of study consent. Patients were classified as not having an OUD (ie, control cohort) if the information in the EMR indicated the following: patients were receiving LTOT as defined; had no current or past history of SUD (except nicotine dependence) or evidence of ADRB (determined using an expert-derived checklist)⁶; and all urine drug screens in the previous 6 months were appropriate (presence of prescribed opioid and absence of nonprescribed opioid or illicit drug). To confirm that control participants over time did not develop an OUD, EMR records were reviewed monthly for 12 months after completing baseline assessments and each control participant completed follow-up comprehensive assessments at 6 and 12 months. The case cohort included patients with CNMP who had no previous history of SUD (except nicotine dependence) as defined by the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-IV*¹² criteria before beginning LTOT; who currently endorsed DSM-IV criteria for opioid dependence (OUD) on both the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview²⁹ and the DSM-IV checklist; and were actively receiving treatment or had been in formal treatment for an OUD. The contact person at each substance abuse treatment facility corroborated that each enrolled case was receiving treatment for a prescription OUD. Enrolled patients were subsequently asked to provide baseline psychological and sociodemographic data, and were reimbursed for study participation.

Measures

Trained research assistants administered all assessments including the MINI and ORT over the phone. To ensure the fidelity of the assessment procedure, the research assistants underwent extensive training and role playing with the senior research staff from our center and the principal investigator, are initially monitored and provided continuous feedback and supervision when conducting the phone assessments for a period of 3 months, and subsequently periodically for quality assurance.

ORT

The ORT is a 10-item instrument created to predict the risk of engaging in opioid-related ADRB among patients with chronic pain being considered for opioid therapy, and to classify the potential risk level as high, moderate, or low (Appendix 1).³¹ The items were developed based on factors in the empirical literature associated with the risk of substance abuse or considered relevant by the authors; the relative weighting of items was similarly based upon expert judgment. Items are weighed from 1 to 5 (ie, history of prescription drug abuse = 5; history of illegal drug abuse and family history of prescription drug abuse = 4; history of alcohol abuse, preadolescent sexual abuse for women, and family history of illegal drug and alcohol abuse for men = 3; attention deficit disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar, schizophrenia = 2; family history of illegal drug abuse in women = 2; and family history of alcohol for women, age, and depression = 1).

In its initial validation, the ORT significantly predicted ADRBs among patients with CNMP at the 1-year follow-up; >90% of patients who displayed ADRBs had been classified as likely to abuse opioids. Furthermore, men (51%) were significantly more likely than women (34%) to display ≥ 1 aberrant behavior. Sex differences were not observed in the incidence of ≥ 3 aberrant behaviors (25% and 20%, respectively).³¹ Subsequent psychometric evaluations evaluating the tool's predictive validity for later (6–12 months) ADRBs provided sensitivity values ranging from .20 (for high-risk scores) to .75 (combining medium- and high-risk scores),^{20,22,23,25,27} and specificity ranging from .54 to .88 (for low-risk scores).²⁰⁻²³ Combining both these characteristics, reported area under the curve values for the ORT ranged from .358 to .735.^{10,20,21} Each of these previous evaluations focused on the ability of the ORT to predict subsequent ADRBs, not the more severe outcome of development of OUD, a main goal of the current analysis.

MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview 6.0

To rule out exclusionary psychiatric disorders and establish the primary study outcome (ie, patients with vs without OUD), the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview 6.0 was administered to all patients. The MINI is a brief and well-validated, structured clinical interview that classifies ≥ 1 psychiatric disorders based on the DSM-IV criteria. The interview establishes the diagnoses for major depressive disorder, mania, panic disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, psychotic symptoms, and illicit drug and alcohol dependence (current and lifetime).²⁹

Sociodemographics

Sociodemographic characteristics including age, sex, marital status, number in household, education level, employment status, disability status, and financial situation were obtained by patient interview.

Statistical Analysis and Validation Measures

Sociodemographic data were summarized (frequency and percent) within each category for discrete variables, and means and standard deviations were calculated for continuous data. In this analysis, the primary outcome measure was the ORT total score used to distinguish between patients with chronic pain with OUD (case cohort) versus patients without OUD (control cohort). Statistical analysis between patients with and without OUD for the sociodemographic data consisted of χ^2 analysis and group t-tests. For all analysis, any *P* value of $<.05$ was considered to be statistically significant.

The ORT contains 10 items for women and 9 items for men (assessment of the latter omits sexual abuse and the original validation of the ORT analyzed gender scores separately). Each ORT item is assigned a weight based on the probability that it predicts the potential for ADRB, and then summed to compute the total score. In the current study, factor analysis evaluated the underlying Eigen structure of the ORT, the number of principal components, and the cumulative percent explained by each component, first within the subset of women and then for the total sample (a distinct component was identified as having an Eigen value of ≥ 1.00 using standard extraction methodology). To evaluate the predictive validity of the ORT's weighting methodology, a binary variable was created (either 0 or 1) representing the unweighted item scores, and the factor analysis was repeated comparing the unweighted versus the weighted item scores. In addition, multivariate logistic regression models evaluated the weighted and unweighted scale total scores to evaluate the odds ratio (OR) of correctly classifying patients with OUD versus without OUD.

Receiver operating characteristic curve and area under the curve statistics, the standard error, *P* values, and the 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using a randomly selected half of the sample to evaluate the cut off scores and predictive validity of the revised ORT (validation sample); the sensitivity, specificity, and positive predictive values and negative predictive values of the cut off scores were evaluated with the remaining patients' data (testing sample).

Results

Sociodemographic data and total ORT score for patients with (*n* = 397) and without (*n* = 781) OUDs are presented in Table 1. The overall sample was 67% women and on average 53.0 ± 12.7 years old. Almost one-half (48.5%) were married, and the majority (67.7%) had a college education. Of the minority who were employed (25.3%), 54% worked full time, and 50.4% of those unemployed were disabled. As expected, when compared with patients without OUDs, patients with OUDs were more likely to be younger, men, unmarried, living with fewer household members, have lower education levels, lower socioeconomic status, receive disability benefits, and report higher ORT

Table 1. Univariate Analyses: Sociodemographics and Total ORT Score

CATEGORY	CONTROL		CASES		P VALUE
	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	
Gender					
Men	258	33.0	212	53.4	<.001
Women	523	67.0	185	46.6	
Marital status					
Married	474	60.7	97	24.4	<.001
Separated	26	3.3	31	7.8	
Divorced	132	16.9	62	15.6	
Never married	116	14.9	195	49.1	
Widowed	33	4.2	12	3.0	
How many people live with you?					
Live alone	128	16.4	73	18.5	<.001
One other	355	45.5	105	26.6	
More than one	297	38.1	216	54.8	
Education level					
6th grade or less	1	.1	2	.5	<.001
7th–12th grade	42	5.4	73	18.4	
High school graduate	157	20.1	152	38.4	
Part college	195	25.0	96	24.2	
2-Year graduate	108	13.8	25	6.3	
4-Year graduate	122	15.6	26	6.6	
Part postgraduate	37	4.7	8	2.0	
Postgrad graduate	119	15.2	14	3.5	
Paid work					
No	581	74.6	299	75.5	.730
Yes	198	25.4	97	24.5	
Hours worked					
Full time	119	60.1	42	44.7	.013
Part time	79	39.6	52	55.3	
If not employed, why?					
Retired	110	19.3	8	2.7	<.001
Laid off/Looking	24	4.2	128	43.7	
Disabled	437	76.5	157	53.6	
Disabled with benefits					
No	105	24.1	62	40.3	<.001
Yes	331	75.9	92	59.7	
Financial situation					
Cannot make ends	147	19.0	199	50.6	<.001
Have just enough	359	46.4	159	40.5	
Comfortable	268	34.6	35	8.9	
Continuous variables					
	Control (<i>n</i> = 781)		Cases (<i>n</i> = 397)		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Age	53.86	12.65	40.02	10.92	<.001
Total ORT score	2.38	2.61	12.73	5.73	<.001

Abbreviation: SD, standard deviation.

total scores (all *P* < .001). Although the groups did not differ by employment status, patients with OUDs were less likely to be working full time than those without an OUD (*P* = .013). Pain location by group is presented in Table 2. The majority of patients in both groups experienced low back pain. In Table 3, opioid type for controls (short-acting, long-acting, and both short-acting and long-acting preparations) revealed that that majority of controls were prescribed short-acting preparations

Table 2. Pain Location by Group

PAIN LOCATION	CONTROLS	CASES
Back	34.8	35.4
Shoulder	9.1	3.5
Knee	5.1	6.3
Arm	4.6	1.8
Leg	18.3	15.3
Mixed	28.1	37.7

NOTE. Values are percent.

Table 3. Opioid Type by Group

Opioid type	CONTROLS	CASES
Short acting		70.3
Long acting		20.7
Short and long acting		8
Average morphine equivalent daily dose		141.23 mg
Buprenorphine		13.6
Methadone		58.8
Not listed or other		27.6

NOTE. Values are percent unless otherwise noted.

(70.3%) and the majority of cases received methadone (58.8%).

Factor Analysis

As noted, the ORT includes 10 items for women and 9 items for men (the item on history of sexual abuse is not weighted for men). Specifically, although both genders are asked about sexual abuse before adolescence, an affirmative response in men is not weighted and, thus, not included in the total score. Although more women with an OUD in the current sample endorsed preadolescent sexual abuse (13.0%) than women without an OUD (6.3%; $P = .004$), overall, very few patients endorsed this item ($n = 57$ [4.8%]). A factor analysis of the subsample of women showed essentially no difference between models that included versus excluded the preadolescent sexual abuse item, suggesting it was a poor predictor of group membership, and therefore, we deleted it from

subsequent analyses of validity, and combined the responses of men and women on a 9-item ORT.

The initial principal components analysis using the weighted scores for the total sample revealed that 3 components had Eigen values of >1.00 . These 3 extracted components explained 59.16% of the variance; the Eigen values for all components and the cumulative percent explained by each component are presented in Table 4.

The principal component extraction matrix in Table 5 revealed that 6 of the 9 weighted ORT items loaded on the strongest factor, explaining 33.86% of the variance. This included family history of substance abuse (except prescription drug abuse), personal history of substance abuse, and age. Although family history of prescription drug abuse had a high loading score on the first factor (.439), it was the only item loading on the second factor (score of .640), accounting for 13.73% of the variance. Together, major depression (score of .701) and other psychiatric disorders (ie, attention deficit disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia) (score of .485) loaded on a third factor (score of .692), which explained 11.57% of the variance.

In an effort to simplify the ORT scoring, the principal components analysis was repeated using the binary variable we created for each item's score (0,1). As noted in Tables 4 and 5, the results were notably similar to the prior analysis of the weighted items, with 3 components accounting for 59.52% of the variance and revealing the same factor structure. These findings suggest that the predictive validity of the ORT does not require weighting of items, but rather that a simple endorsement (yes/no) of each item can predict the risk for developing an OUD. Notably, the OR of predicting group membership (OUD vs non-OUD) was considerably higher using the unweighted versus weighted scores, in part owing to the truncated scoring range of the latter (Table 6).

Sensitivity, Specificity, and Positive and Negative Predictive Values

Last, the receiver operating characteristic curve of the 9-item unweighted ORT was calculated on a randomly selected half of the sample (validation subsample) and

Table 4. Factor Analysis: Comparison of Weighted and Unweighted ORT Factor Structure for the Total Sample by the 9-Factor Solution

COMPONENT	WEIGHTED ORT			UNWEIGHTED ORT (YES/NO)		
	EIGEN VALUE	PERCENT OF VARIANCE	CUMULATIVE %	EIGEN VALUE	PERCENT OF VARIANCE	CUMULATIVE %
1	3.047	33.859	33.859	3.012	33.464	33.464
2	1.236	13.729	47.588	1.343	14.921	48.385
3	1.041	11.569	59.157	1.002	11.136	59.521
4	.850	9.446	68.603	.871	9.674	69.195
5	.776	8.617	77.221	.771	8.571	77.766
6	.729	8.104	85.324	.704	7.822	85.588
7	.625	6.949	92.274	.630	7.005	92.594
8	.511	5.682	97.956	.482	5.355	97.948
9	.184	2.044	100.000	.185	2.052	100.000

Table 5. Principal Component Extraction Matrix

ITEM	WEIGHTED ORT			UNWEIGHTED ORT (YES/NO)		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Family history of alcohol abuse	.541	.340	-.339	.532	.486	-.213
Family history of illegal drugs	.585	.543	-.226	.580	.560	-.247
Family history of prescription drug abuse	.439	.640	.023	.454	.552	-.038
Personal history of alcohol abuse	.506	-.383	-.254	.490	-.375	-.265
Personal history of illegal drug abuse	.803	-.374	-.121	.792	-.403	-.162
Personal history of prescription drug abuse	.813	-.312	-.088	.802	-.348	-.126
Age 16–45 years	.570	-.126	.247	.565	-.170	.252
Psych disease: ADD, OCD, bipolar, schizophrenia	.471	-.011	.485	.473	-.046	.524
Psych disease: depression	.332	.128	.701	.364	.181	.667

Abbreviations: ADD, attention deficit disorder; OCD, obsessive-compulsive disorder.

then tested for predictive validity on the remaining participants (testing subsample); statistical inspection of the composition of the 2 subsamples demonstrated equivalency with respect to percentages of patients with and without an OUD ($P = .236$). For the validation dataset, the area under the curve was .907 (standard error = .014) and highly significant ($P < .001$). A cut off score of 2.5 (scores of 0, 1, or 2 indicating non-OUD, and scores of ≥ 3 indicating patients with an OUD) provided a sensitivity value of .887 and specificity value of .772. As presented in Table 7, this cut off score demonstrated an excellent ability to predict patient classification in the testing subsample, with sensitivity remaining high (85.4%) and improved specificity (85.1%). The positive predictive value and negative predictive value are similarly strong, with 75.7% of true-positive cases and 91.4% of true-negative cases accurately identified. The individual receiver operating characteristic curves for the validation and testing subsamples can be found in Fig 1.

Discussion

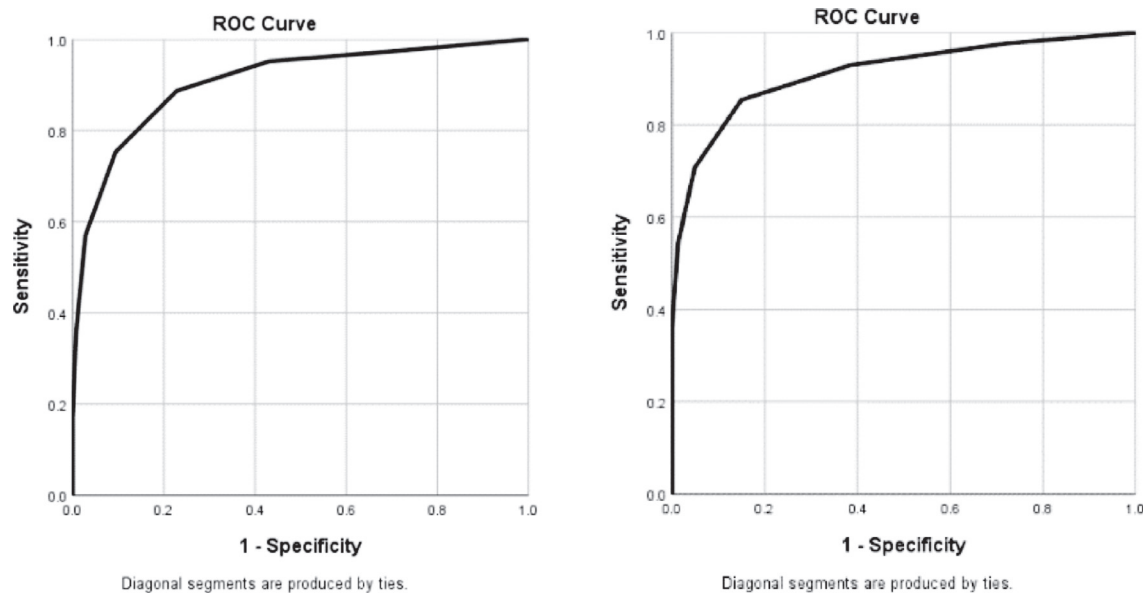
This study is the first to evaluate the sensitivity, specificity, and predictive value of the self-report ORT on a large cohort of patients with CNMP receiving LTOT and displaying no evidence of ADRB or meeting the criteria for an OUD compared with a cohort of patients with CNMP with no previous history of a SUD who developed an OUD after commencing prescription opioid therapy. Both the item content and structure of the ORT in predicting OUD were evaluated. Overall, the results of this study support the validity of the original ORT to predict the risk of developing an OUD in patients with CNMP. However, additional psychometric analysis revealed that a revised 9-item unweighted version of the ORT (ORT-OUD) was found to be superior to the original ORT in distinguishing patients with and without an OUD. A principal component analysis suggested that in clinical practice ascertaining the patient's personal and family history of SUD, age, and concomitant psychiatric conditions, may be sufficient to determine general risk

Table 6. Multivariate Logistic Regression: Classification of Patients With OUD Versus Without OUD as Predicted by ORT Total Score With Weighted and Unweighted Items

VARIABLE	BETA	P VALUE	OR	95% LOWER BOUND	95% UPPER BOUND
ORT total score (weighted 10-items)	.485	<.001	1.624	1.539	1.715
ORT total score (weighted without sexual abuse item 9-item)	.500	<.001	1.648	1.559	1.742
ORT total score (unweighted)	1.127	<.001	3.085	2.725	3.493

Table 7. Evaluation of Sensitivity and Specificity of Varied Cut Off Scores (Score of 0–2 vs ≥ 3)

	PATIENTS WITH OUD	PATIENTS WITHOUT OUD	TOTAL
Cut point on the 0–2 and ≥ 3 sample	≥ 3	181	58
	0–2	31	330
Total	212	388	600
Value	Formula	Values	Result
Sensitivity	A/(A+C)	181/212	.854
Specificity	D/(D+B)	330/388	.851
Positive predictive value	A/(A+B)	181/239	.757
Negative predictive value	D/(C+D)	330/361	.914
			95% CI
			.799–.898
			.811–.885
			.709–.799
			.885–.937



Value	Development Data Set	Validation Data Set
Area	0.907	0.913
SE	0.014	0.013
p-value	<0.001	<0.001
95% CI of Area	0.879-0.934	0.886-0.939
Cronbach's Alpha	0.722	0.739

Figure 1. Receiver operating characteristic curve on the development and validation dataset.

and the need for further assessment of the potential of a patient developing an OUD when exposed to opioid therapy.

The main finding of this analysis suggests that the original ORT was able to discriminate between patients with and without OUDs to a great degree. The average ORT score for patients with and without OUD was 12.73 (standard deviation, 5.73) and 2.38 (standard deviation, 2.61), respectively.

A more granular evaluation of the ORTs structure and items, particularly the weighting of items and the item on preadolescent sexual abuse, was conducted in an effort to simplify the ORT as a screener for OUD development. The item selection and item weighting of the ORT

was based on clinical experience of the authors and the prevailing literature, but had not been empirically based. The item on childhood sexual abuse weighted for women and not weighted for men was based on an article by Kendler et al,²⁶ which found that women who reported a history of childhood sexual abuse were at increased risk for developing psychiatric disorders in adulthood including alcohol and drug abuse. The seminal ACE (Adverse Childhood Events) study published in 1998 included both women and men and found that childhood exposure to a variety of adverse events, including both abuse and household dysfunction, increased the risk of developing adulthood health maladies, including nicotine, alcohol, and drug abuse for both genders.¹⁵ As

noted in the Results, few women overall endorsed the sexual abuse question (4.8%) and a factor analysis of the female participants showed no statistically significant difference between models including or excluding the preadolescent sexual abuse item.

The weighting of items on the original ORT was not derived by psychometric testing principles; thus, we evaluated a weighted full 10-item ORT (including the preadolescent sexual abuse question), a 9-item ORT that excluded the preadolescent question, and a 9-item unweighted scale (dichotomous yes or no response). A logistic regression revealed that the weighted 10-item and the weighted without sexual abuse 9-item scales were equally predictive of group membership (OR, 1.624 [95% CI, 1.539–1.715; $P < .001$] and OR, 1.648 [95% CI, 1.559–1.742; $P < .001$], respectively). The unweighted 9-item scale, however, was superior to both the weighted 10-item and weighted 9-item scales (OR, 3.085; 95% CI, 2.725–3.493; $P < .001$; Table 6). These findings indicate that a revised ORT with 9 unweighted items is more predictive of OUD classification and may have more clinical usefulness.

The principal components analysis on the 9-item weighted and unweighted versions revealed similar results of 3 key factors: (1) family history of alcohol and illicit drug abuse; personal history of alcohol, illicit, and prescription drug abuse; (2) family history of prescription drug abuse; and (3) psychiatric disorders (obsessive-compulsive disorder, attention deficit disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia) and depression. These results further support the use of the streamlined 9-item unweighted version of the ORT. Further, the grouping of the 3 components was intriguing. There is literature supporting that personal and family history of SUD and psychiatric comorbidities are strong risk factors for developing a prescription OUD in patients with CNMP.¹⁷ It is unclear why a family history of prescription drug abuse dropped out as a separate component. This circumstance could suggest a spurious finding or perhaps reflects a more specific risk factor for OUD in this patient population. However, a family history of prescription drug abuse also weighed heavily in factor 1, suggesting that it was highly correlated with the other family history of substance abuse. This phenomenon requires further exploration.

A further evaluation of the revised ORT-OUD support its use to predict the development of OUD in patients with CNMP on LTOT. Sensitivity, specificity and positive/negative predictive value of the 9-item unweighted ORT was validated on a randomly selected half of the sample and tested on the second half of the sample using a 0 to 2 (non-OUD) and ≥ 3 (OUD) cut off. Sensitivity (.854) and specificity (.851) were high, as were the positive (.757) and negative (.914) predictive values.

The current standard of care regarding opioid therapy for chronic pain is to avoid or minimize opioids if possible, as first line therapeutic agents and rely on nonopioid pharmacotherapy (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antidepressants, antiepileptic drugs, acetaminophen, etc) and nonpharmacologic interventions (physical therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, acupuncture, etc).¹³ In cases

where patients have not responded to nonopioid therapies or lack access to forms of recommended pain management interventions (cognitive-behavioral therapy, acupuncture, etc) and are functionally impaired, opioids may be indicated and efficacious in well-selected individuals. Patient selection when considering opioids relies on a number of strategies, including querying the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, urine drug testing, and using risk assessment tools. The ORT has been extensively used to assess the risk of ADRB in patients being considered for LTOT. The ORT, however, like all the risk assessment tools was not developed to predict the potential for a patient on opioid therapy to develop a true OUD, only ADRB or problematic drug-taking behavior, which could be a surrogate for OUD or a myriad of other maladaptive behaviors, including general treatment nonadherence, misuse, abuse for noneuphoric effects such as self-treating medicating anxiety, depression, or sleep disorders, which are common in patients with CNMP.

There are cautionary limitations to this study. First, because the parent study was designed to discover genotypic characteristics of OUD in patients with CNMP, participants were limited to Caucasians to increase the probability of discovering a genetic marker by decreasing ethnic variability. Our results, therefore, cannot be generalized to non-Caucasian populations, and require replication in other ethnic populations. A second limitation, which is inherent in all cross-sectional designs, is that we evaluated participants at 1 point in time and did not assess the sequence of events leading to the development of an OUD, which prevents us from inferring causality. Finally, being a self-administered tool, the ORT is subject to misreporting on the part of the patient, and there is evidence to suggest that, when administered by a clinician²⁴ or when self-administered but validated with the electronic health record,¹⁰ prediction of aberrant behaviors is improved. Not tested in the current evaluation of the tool, findings of predictive validity are limited to the context of self-administration, and may be improved under different administration conditions.

The ORT, like all risk assessment tools, is limited in scope to providing an assessment of risk of ADRB, which may or may not be indicative of a patient having developed a true OUD, but is useful in alerting a clinician to the possibility of misuse, abuse, or OUD, and prompting further investigation. Despite these limitations, these psychometric analyses represent a significant step forward in our ability to screen for risk in patients with CNMP who are candidates for LTOT. Beyond predicting risk for ADRB (which may reflect many issues other than OUD), we have demonstrated that the revised ORT (the ORT-OUD; Appendix 2) can actually detect risk for the more problematic and serious outcome of OUD. In addition, we have shown that a simpler and shorter version of the tool can predict OUD just as well, and was significantly better than the original 10-item weighted tool, with excellent sensitivity and specificity. In keeping with current calls for improved screening before opioid provision for patients with CNMP, the ORT-OUD provides a straightforward and validated method to quickly and effectively do so in the practice setting.

Appendix 1

Opioid Risk Tool

This tool should be administered to patients upon an initial visit prior to beginning opioid therapy for pain management. A score of 3 or lower indicates low risk for future opioid abuse, a score of 4 to 7 indicates moderate risk for opioid abuse, and a score of 8 or higher indicates a high risk for opioid abuse.

MARK EACH BOX THAT APPLIES	FEMALE	MALE
Family history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	1	3
Illegal drugs	2	3
Rx drugs	4	4
Personal history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	3	3
Illegal drugs	4	4
Rx drugs	5	5
Age between 16-45 years	1	1
History of preadolescent sexual abuse	3	0
Psychological disease		
ADD, OCD, bipolar, schizophrenia	2	2
Depression	1	1
Scoring totals		

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Appendix 2

Opioid Risk Tool - OUD (ORT-OUD)

This tool should be administered to patients upon an initial visit prior to beginning or continuing opioid therapy for pain management. A score of 2 or lower indicates low risk for future opioid use disorder; a score of ≥ 3 indicates high risk for opioid use disorder.

MARK EACH BOX THAT APPLIES	YES	NO
Family history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	1	0
Illegal drugs	1	0
Rx drugs	1	0
Personal history of substance abuse		
Alcohol	1	0
Illegal drugs	1	0
Rx drugs	1	0
Age between 16-45 years	1	0
Psychological disease		
ADD, OCD, bipolar, schizophrenia	1	0
Depression	1	0
Scoring totals		

Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2019.01.011>.

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