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Current overview of opioids in progression of inflammatory bowel disease; pharmacological and clinical considerations

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Abstract

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) belong to a subgroup of persistent, long-term, progressive, and relapsing inflammatory conditions. IBD may spontaneously develop in the colon, resulting in tumor lesions in inflamed regions of the intestine, such as invasive carcinoma. The benefit of opioids for IBD treatment is still questionable, thereby we investigated databases to provide an overview in this context. This review demonstrates the controversial role of opioids in IBD therapy, their physiological and pharmacological functions in attenuating the IBD symptoms, and in improving inflammatory, oxidative stress, and the quality of life factors in IBD subjects. Data were extracted from clinical, in vitro, and in vivo studies in English, between 1995 and 2019, from PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Cochrane library. Based on recent reports, there are promising opportunities to target the opioid system and control the IBD symptoms. This study suggests a novel approach for future treatment of functional and inflammatory disorders such as IBD.

Keywords: Inflammation; Inflammatory bowel diseases; Opioid receptors; Opioids.

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