

Low Incidence of Opioid-Induced Respiratory Depression Observed with Oliceridine In High-Risk Elderly Obese Patients

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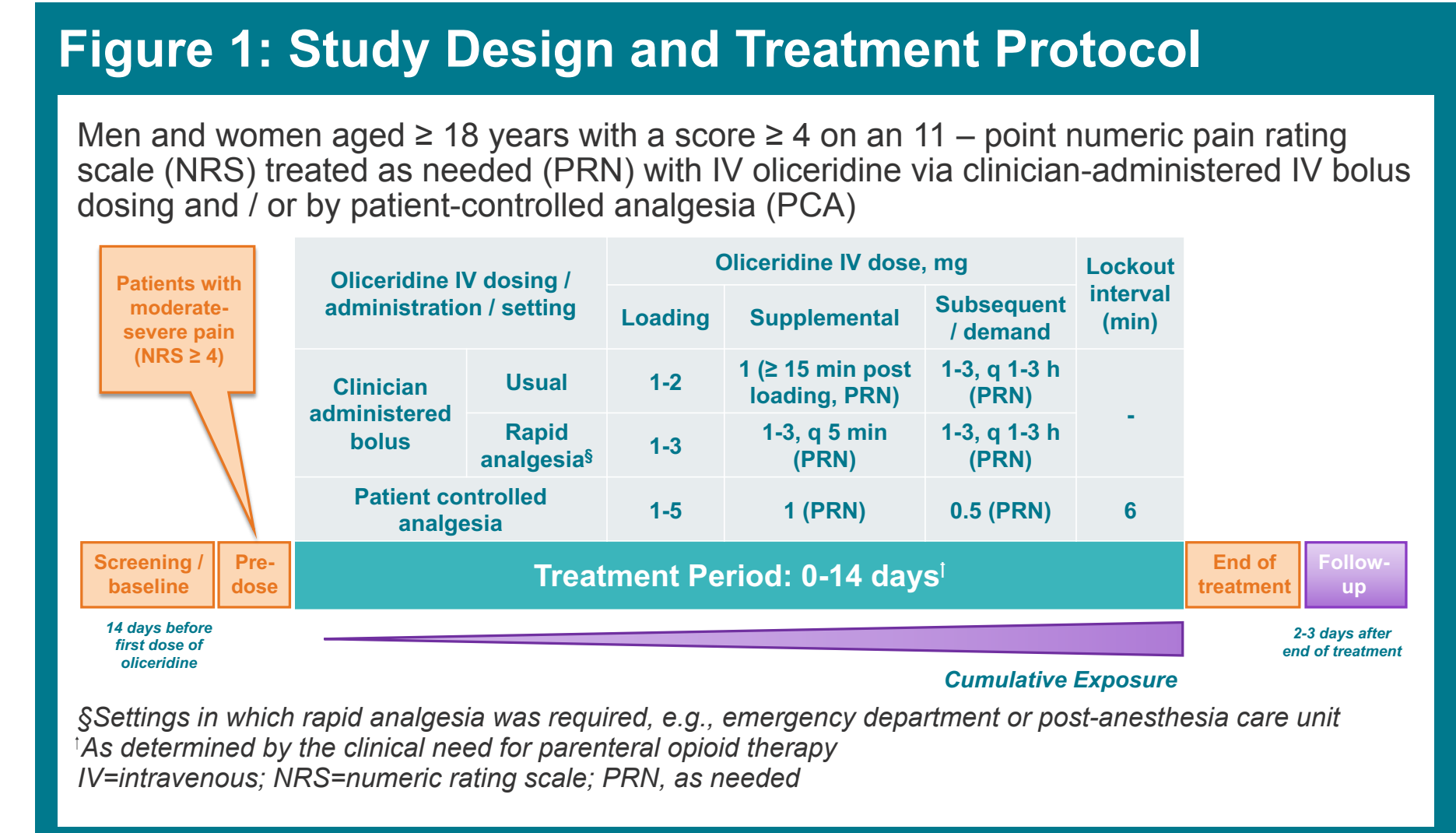
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INTRODUCTION

- Opioids are considered an important therapy for potent analgesia, particularly for moderate to severe pain.¹
- Opioid-induced respiratory depression (OIRD)** is a potentially fatal complication associated with conventional opioids.²
- The reported incidence of OIRD ranges from:
 - 0.04 to 0.5% as defined by naloxone use.³
 - As high as 52.0%, using respiratory rate (RR) < 8 breaths/min (bpm).⁴
 - As high as 77.4%, using oxygen saturation (SpO₂) < 90%.⁵
 - The reported mortality of patients with OIRD is 9.4% within the first 24 hours after surgery.⁶
- Advanced age and obesity are known risk factors for OIRD.⁷
- Oliceridine**, a next generation investigational IV opioid not yet approved by FDA, is a G-protein selective agonist at the u-opioid receptor.⁸
- The G-protein selectivity results in analgesia with less recruitment of β-arrestin, a signaling pathway associated with adverse events such as OIRD.⁹
- In *Phase 3 controlled pivotal studies*, Oliceridine showed effective analgesia with improvements in safety/tolerability profile compared to morphine.^{9,10}
- Recently, a *Phase 3 ATHENA open-label, multicenter study*, reported that Oliceridine IV in patients with moderate to severe acute pain, either in a broad range of surgical procedures or having painful medical conditions, is generally safe and well tolerated.¹¹
- In this secondary analysis of data from the ATHENA trial, we report the incidence of OIRD among subsets of elderly patients (≥ 65 years) with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m², who underwent a broad range of surgical procedures.

METHODS



- Patients who underwent a surgical procedure were included:
 - **High-risk group:** ≥ 65 years with a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m².
 - **Low-risk group:** < 65 years with BMI < 30 kg/m².
- RR and SpO₂ were measured during the dosing period consistent with individual patient need and institutional standards of care.
- OIRD for this analysis was defined as
 - Administration of naloxone;
 - RR < 10bpm or SpO₂ < 90%
- Descriptive statistics were used to describe all events of OIRD up to 48 hours after the last dose of Oliceridine. Risk factors reported in the literature *to be associated with OIRD*³ are listed in the descriptive analysis.

RESULTS

- In the ATHENA trial a total of 724 patients who underwent a broad range of surgical procedures (mean age 54.5 ± 15.9 years; mean BMI 30.6 ± 7.4 kg/m²), received Oliceridine IV.
 - Nearly half of the patients had a BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² (46.3%), and nearly one third (33.3%) were aged ≥ 65 years.
 - 120 patients were ≥ 65 years of age with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² (high-risk group).
 - 268 patients were < 65 years of age with BMI < 30 kg/m² (low-risk group).

Table 1: Demographics and Clinical Characteristics in the High-Risk and Low-Risk Patients

	High-Risk Group	Low-Risk Group
N	120	268
Age, years, mean ± SD	70.3 ± 4.5	44.5 ± 13.7
BMI, kg/m², mean ± SD	35.6 ± 4.8	25.1 ± 3.4
Female, n (%) / Male, n (%)	72 (60.0) / 48 (40.0)	189 (70.5) / 79 (29.5)
Key Medical Comorbidities[¶]		
Asthma	13 (10.8)	20 (7.5)
Sleep Apnea	29 (24.2)	12 (4.5)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	14 (11.7)	7 (2.6)
Diabetes Mellitus	26 (21.7)	12 (4.5)
Hypertension	97 (80.8)	54 (20.1)
Key Prior Medications[¶]		
Other sedatives*	0	1 (0.4)
Benzodiazepines	102 (85.0)	237 (88.4)
Opioid anesthetics**	102 (85.0)	246 (91.8)
Gabapentinoids	78 (65.0)	38 (14.2)
Key Concomitant Medications[¶]		
Other sedatives*	0	0
Benzodiazepines	31 (25.8)	44 (16.0)
Opioid anesthetics**	1 (0.8)	16 (6.0)
Gabapentinoids	44 (36.7)	27 (10.1)

High-Risk Group: Age ≥ 65 years with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²; Low-Risk Group: Age < 65 years with BMI < 30 kg/m²; BMI=body mass index, SD=standard deviation
 *Other sedatives include dexmedetomidine and diphenhydramine
 **Fentanyl (used in most patients), sufentanil, remifentanyl
 ¶Medical comorbidities and medications known to be associated with increased risk of OIRD³

- Table 1** shows the demographic and clinical characteristics in these subgroups.
- Risk factors of OIRD**
 - The high-risk group had an overall higher incidence of medical comorbidities known to be associated with increased risk of OIRD³ (**Table 1**).
 - Use of medications known to be associated with increased risk of OIRD³, eg, gabapentinoids, benzodiazepines and other sedatives, were higher in the high-risk group (**Table 1**).

Exposure to Oliceridine (Table 2)

Table 2: Exposure to Oliceridine in the High-Risk and Low-Risk Patients

	High-Risk group	Low-Risk group
Administration PCA	72.5%	34.7%
Bolus IV	27.5%	65.3%
Mean cumulative dose, mg	37.1	30.0
Mean duration of exposure, hours	39.8	28.1

High-Risk Group: Age ≥ 65 years with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²; Low-Risk Group: Age < 65 years with BMI < 30 kg/m²

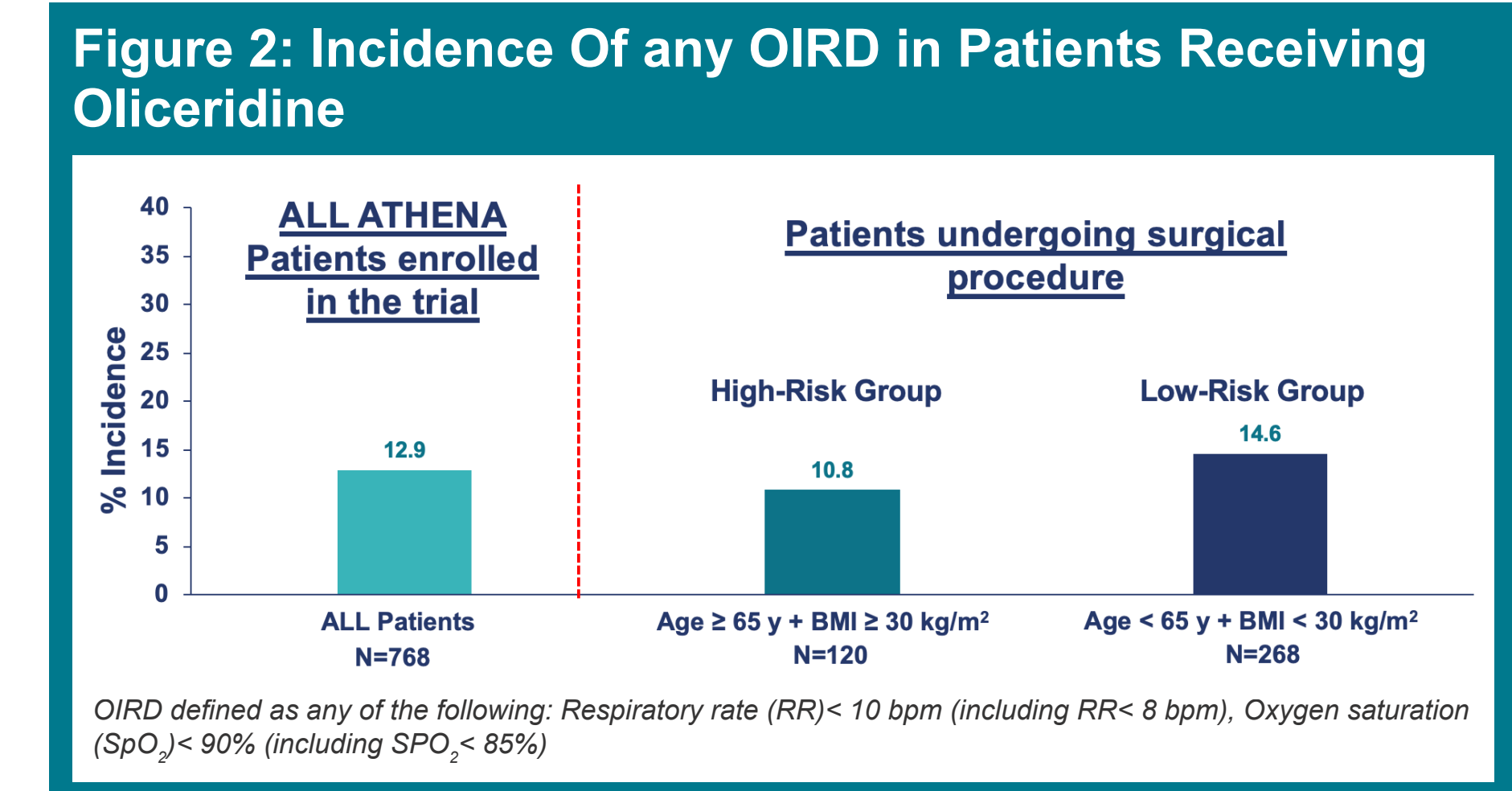


Table 3: Incidence of OIRD in the High-Risk and Low-Risk Patients

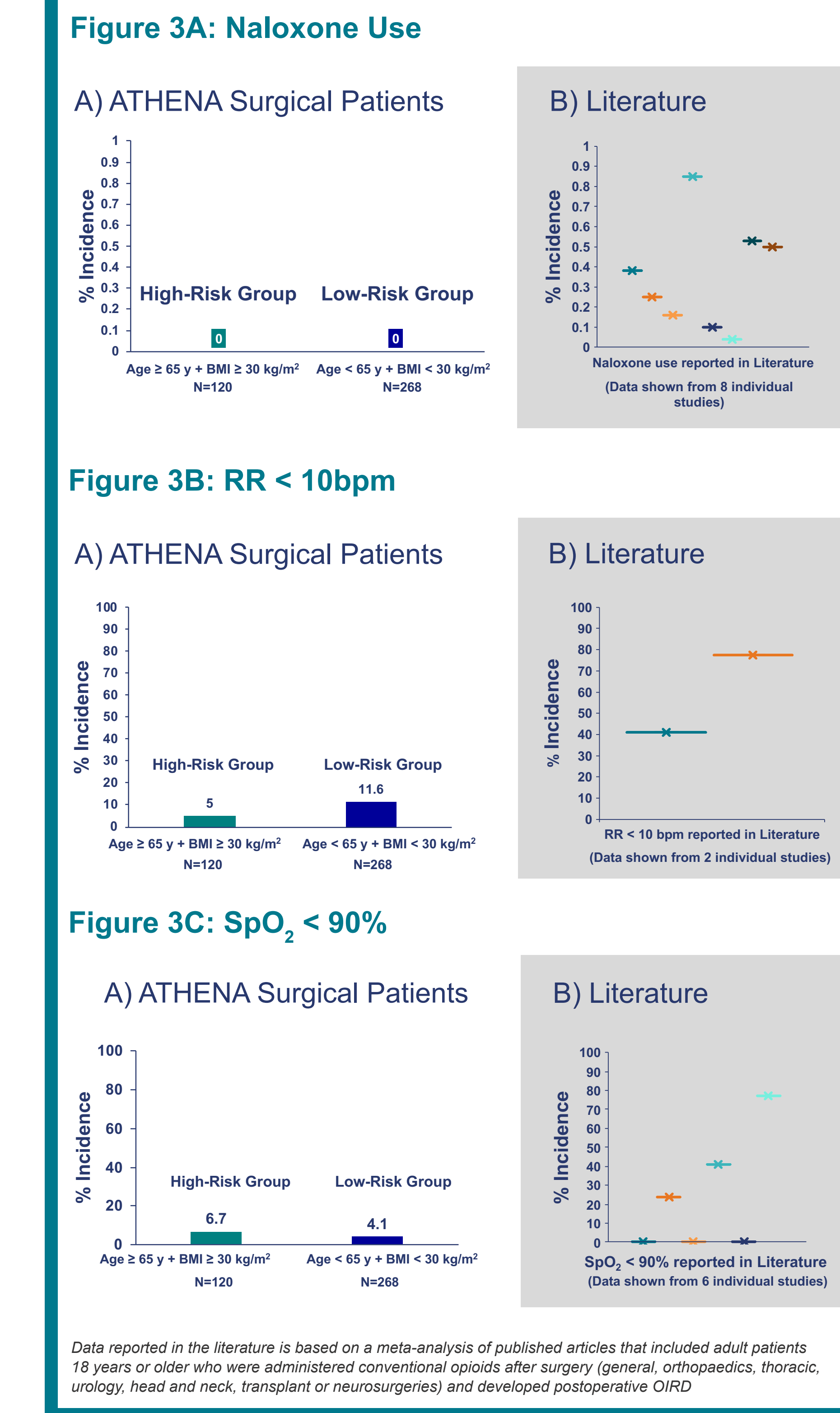
	High-Risk Group	Low-Risk Group
Oliceridine mean dose* (mg)	37.1	30.0
Naloxone Use, n	0	0
Any OIRD, n (%)	13 (10.8)	39 (14.6)
RR < 10 bpm, n (%)	6 (5.0)	31 (11.6)
SpO ₂ < 90%, n (%)	8 (6.7)	11 (4.1)
RR < 10bpm and SpO ₂ < 90%, n	0	0

* The morphine milligram equivalent (MME) of oliceridine to morphine is approximately 5:1. High-Risk Group: Age ≥ 65 years with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²; Low-Risk Group: Age < 65 years with BMI < 30 kg/m²
 OIRD defined as any of the following: RR < 10 bpm (including RR < 8 bpm), SpO₂ < 90% (including SpO₂ < 85%)

Respiratory Events

- Incidence of any OIRD in the high-risk group was similar to that observed in the low-risk group (**Figure 2**).
- No patients required naloxone or had both RR < 10 bpm *and* SpO₂ < 90% (**Table 3**).

Figure 3: Respiratory Events in A) High-Risk and Low-Risk Patients Receiving Oliceridine for Postoperative Pain and B) Historical Rates Reported in Literature in Surgical Population Receiving Conventional Opioids



CONCLUSION

- The OIRD incidence in the high-risk group (elderly and obese) was similar to those observed in the low-risk group (younger and non-obese) despite higher age, BMI, comorbid burden, mean cumulative dose, mean duration of exposure, as well as higher PCA preference in the high-risk group.
- Findings suggest that elderly patients with high BMI receiving Oliceridine may not be at increased risk for OIRD.
- The use of Oliceridine may be clinically appropriate in patients at high risk for OIRD.

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