An institutional protocol for opioid-sedative weaning is used in only 12% of patients. A protocol for IWS in less than 1% of ICUs with an opioid-sedative IWS protocol utilize it in only 1 in 10 patients.

INTRODUCTION
Iatrogenic withdrawal syndrome (IWS) associated with opioids and sedatives used for medical purposes has not been adequately studied in the adult ICU population.

OBJECTIVES
This study aimed to describe opioid and sedation weaning and IWS practices in critically ill adults.

METHODS
- International, prospective, observational, one-day point prevalence study
- One-day data collection between June 1 and September 30, 2021
- Patients 18 years and older in the ICU on the date of data collection who received parenteral opioids or sedatives in the previous 24 hours
- Primary outcome: proportion of patients weaned from parenteral opioids and sedatives using an institutional protocol
- Secondary outcomes: proportion of patients assessed for IWS using an institutional protocol and proportion receiving continuous analgesics and sedatives

CONCLUSIONS
A small proportion of patients were weaned from parenteral opioids and sedatives and assessed for IWS using an institutional protocol.

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RESULTS
- Protocol for opioid-sedative weaning used in 176/1506 (12%) of patients
- Protocol for IWS used in 9/1506 (0.6%) of patients
- 9 of 97 possible patients were assessed with an IWS protocol

Sites and Patients
- 229 ICUs at 87 Hospitals
- 1506 (63%) patients on parenteral opioids-sedatives in previous 24 hours
- 136 (59%) ICUs with no weaning or IWS protocol
- 93 (41%) ICUs with weaning or IWS protocol
- 97 (6%) in 23 ICUs with IWS protocol

Opioid-Sedative Use
- 1506 (63%) patients on parenteral opioids-sedatives in previous 24 hours
- 1352 (64%) in ICUs with no weaning or IWS protocol
- 870 (36%) in ICUs with weaning or IWS protocol

Protocol Utilization
- ICUs with a weaning protocol used it in 176/521 (34%) of patients
- ICUs with a IWS protocol used it in 9/97 (9%) of patients

Continuous Use
- Opioids
  - 1305 (86.7%) of patients
- Sedatives
  - 1151 (76.4%) of patients