

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

# International Analgesia and Sedation Weaning and Withdrawal Practices in Critically Ill Adults: The Adult iatrogenic withdrawal sTudy in the ICU (ALERT-ICU)

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## 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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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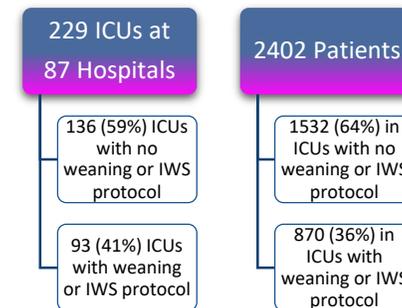
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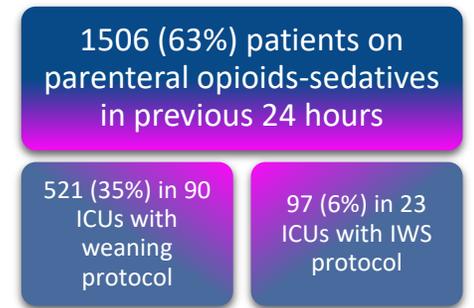
## RESULTS

- 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

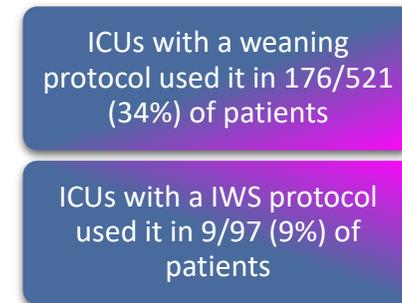
### Sites and Patients



### Opioid-Sedative Use



### Protocol Utilization



### Continuous Use

